

Ross Dowson archives – Vancouver and B.C. correspondence – 1947

- 01_13 Letter to Ellaline, re: success of the Toronto civic election campaign; distribution of *Labor Challenge* in BC
- 01_14 Letter to Bill White (Britannia Bay) re: his donation
- 01_15 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: administrative matters; new BC comrades moving out; the need for more BC articles for *LC*
- 01_15B Letter to the Vancouver Branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party, re: pointing out that members-at-large must reside in Branch cities
- 01_20 Letter to Lloyd (Whalen), re: his complaint of ‘‘character assassination’’ by the PC against a Vancouver member Tom B.
- 03_22 Letter to Lloyd (Whalen), re: IWA organization drive in Quebec called off due to false rumours of four Trotskyists on the payroll
- 03_28 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the upcoming subscription campaign; branch matters, SWP summer school for new comrades
- 03_28B Letter to Lloyd (Whalen), re: circulation and return of IS (FI) document
- 03_29 Telegram from Reg Bullock to RD, re: stop the presses for major BC labor development story
- 03_31 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: notes and clippings received on BC anti-labor legislation; finances put into question the twice-monthly *LC*; special press run coming out; waiting for articles
- 04_02 Letter to Ellaline, re: shipping extra copies of last issue of *LC*; request for number of copies of May Day issue required in BC
- 04_02B Letter to Tom Whalen, re: the McKean dissident CPC group and others; can he write up his trade union experiences
- 04_03 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the need for a May Day meeting in Vancouver; an upcoming SWP bulletin on the ‘‘Russian question’’
- 04-04 Letter to Angus (McPhee), re: reviving the Prince Rupert group; the anti-semitism of the Stalinist McKean group
- 04_14 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: his local situation; party matters

04_16 Letter to Dear Comrades, re: The P.C. sends greetings to the Vancouver RWP on the occasion of its branch conference

04_16B Letter to the Executive Committee of the Vancouver Branch, re: PC meeting disagrees with conference plans to set up a parallel organizational structure as unconstitutional

04_23 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: lack of coverage of BC CCF convention and lack of a May Day celebration; subscription campaign underway, promise of work in the BC Civil Liberties Union

04_23B Letter to Ellaline, re: May Day *LC* coming off press with BC article

05_02 Letter to Ruth Bullock, re: subscription drive results

05_07 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the matter of members-at-large in BC

05_13 Letter to Ellaline, re: Vancouver comrades attacked at distribution; late delivery of the May Day issue

05_21 Letter to Tom (Bradley), re: asking his views on PC document in reply to Vancouver member-at-large issue and setting up a BC Organizational Cttee; its scope to be discussed by BC NC members

06_02 Letter to Ellaline; the first-rate sub getting in Vancouver

06_04 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: hoping to receive a trade union report; the use of pseudonyms, and cells in the CCF; a Trotsky memorial

06_12 Letter to Lloyd (Whalen), re: the *LC* article on BC labor struggles; on the demand for a sliding scale complementing wage increases; how we can urge a vote against the IWA shop contract offer

06_16 Letter to Comrade White (Britannia Beach), re: centre would like to see their union local Bulletin, books sent

06_23 Letter to Ellaline, re: late delivery of *LC*, tight budget and danger of putting all deliveries on a cash basis; the lack of Vancouver comrades' subs; the inspiring sub drive results in BC

06_27 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the question of the "District Committee" in BC; need experienced Canadian comrades for special SWP summer camp including an NC or other member from Vancouver; the nature of our support for the CCF similar to the European slogan "CP-SP to power;" CCF roots in unions still sparse, the tactical question of supporting Stalinist candidates

- 07_15 Letter to Lloyd (Whalen?), re: his exceptional sub getting; old-timers lagging in Toronto; the financial responsibilities of comrades to the party; the difficulty in squeezing in all the LC trade union articles
- 07_23 Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: the PC decision to skip the August edition of *LC* due to severe financial constraints
- 07_31 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: sending him a complete list of LC subscribers; dissention in some BC CCF clubs; various BC union and CCF club matters; meetings to hear the Trotsky recordings; possible aid sent via boat to Indonesian workers
- 08_11 +Letter to Reg (Bullock): need to send Trotsky recordings to centre; Vancouver suggestion for regular internal bulletin
- 09_03 +Letter to Reg: noting anti-semitic article in CCF press on Palestine and planned RWP public response to needle trade workers
- 09_05 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: a poll and bulletin in the B.C. Federation issue, the SWP plenum; other Branch projects
- 09_05B Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: their request for a PC statement on the dispute around the BC Federation of Labor and its 17-man Political Action Cttee.; need a rounded discussion; an IB coming
- 09_16 +Letter to Reg re: negative response with fund drive among journal subscribers; success of Toronto street-corner meetings; Vancouver activities and the delay in the internal bulletin
- 09_99 *Document: September Internal Bulletin; "Comments on Organizational Problem" by RD;*** the RWP in reality a propaganda group; the need to break out of isolation and anonymity
- 10_02 Letter to Lloyd (Whalen), re: our call for a 24-hour general strike; our total opposition to the anti-labor Bill 39; Reg requests a discussion on the PC letter to the RCP (Britain) re the IEC (FI) resolution on the British question; RD defends PC action
- 10_03 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: CCF and Stalinists attempts to divert 24-hour general strike to amendments of Bill 39; the loss of a promising young member; on the matter of party "sympathizers;" Toronto street-corner meetings; what possibility of RWL entering Vancouver civic elections
- 10_07 Letter to Bill (White, Britannia Bay), re: his resolution on the sliding scale; the Marble Arch incident possibly going to court

- 10_16 Letter to Bill (Whitney), re: the fine direct reports from Whalen and Bradley on the fight against Bill 39 and the need for an *LC* article;
- 10_24 +Letter to Reg: BC contacts and Vancouver branch activities
- 11_04 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the progress of the fund drive; the *LC* coverage of the tramway strike and a discussion on Whitney's article; BC criticisms of *LC* and its politics; a prominent IWA unionist refuses to sign an "anti-communist affidavit;" Jean-Marie Bédard refused the floor but voted against the CCL administration
- 11_18 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: good fund drive results; the loss of CCF membership in BC; Angus's and Bill's criticisms of *LC* coverage of opposition to Bill 39 needs discussion at PC (Political Cttee.)
- 11_20 Letter to Bill (White, Britannia Beach), re: good fund drive results; the general lull in union activity, books
- 12_03 Letter to Bill (Whitney), re: PC discussion on his and Reg's view that the *L.C.* article on the strike struggle and Bill 39 was ultra-leftist; with Angus's criticism also a full discussion is in order

January 13 1947

Dear Ellaline;

You must pardon our long silence. Work has ~~III~~ been piling up ever since the start of the campaign which was over a month ago and we are only now getting it cleared away.

The campaign was a great success as you can see from the 3,201 votes that we rolled up. These are very conscious votes, if we are not mistaken based almost entirely on a reading and support of our program which we did our best to give as wide a distribution as possible. The Stalinists in their press of course ignored us but their canvassers went around openly in Wards 4 and 5 which have been traditionally theirs and told workers to vote Tory Saunders. The CCF also ignored us and refused to endorse us at the CCL Toronto Council which they control, they did not endorse Saunders altho the TIC did. If you read the daily press here you would never have known that we were running. But we put up a good fight and I do not doubt surprised both the CCF and IPP including the boss parties. The radio program was excellent sorry you could not hear it. We have not been able to obtain the breakdown of the vote as yet into the various districts and sub districts. We are looking forward to comparing the returns to the areas where we distributed. The returns which should be out next week will be a valuable guide to us for future work. There is no doubt that the campaign will give our party great impetus. While the Stalinists and CCFers lost heavily we demonstrated to the workers that there is a ~~WORKING~~ working class party with a militant program of struggle that is on the upswing. Not only did we tax our energies but the campaign was quite a drain on our resources. We spent somewhere in the neighbourhood of two hundred and fifty dollars but it looks like Toronto will be able to cover it alright. We intend to enter the field next year with greater resources and possibly an extensive slate...hope you comrades can also do something along this line.

We were very happy to receive the Vancouver campaign quota in full. For a time we were wondering if we would make the objective. The campaign was a big job for our limited forces and its attainment is a considerable achievement.

Sorry I forgot to inform you that we only sent you 200 copies of the mid-December issue. I was of the opinion that since the issue had most to do with the Toronto election campaign that it would not be such a good issue for distribution at Vancouver factories...besides the printer bailed us up on our press run of that issue and we needed every copy possible for our campaign work here. I was also of the opinion that the comrades would not probably want to do distribution which are not ~~EM~~ very successful during the Christmas New Year season.

We have received the minutes of the last few meetings from Reg and note the decision of the branch to dispense with all the various small bundle orders and to cut the one big bundle going I assume to your place to 200 copies. You will recall that we originally decided to send out the various small bundle orders so that distribution would be more expeditious and a comrade desiring papers would not have to tramp all over town to get them or make any special trip. If one of the reasons for the change is to facilitate our mailing the paper from here

why think nothing of it. We are only too glad to do the little extra work involved. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I have sent out the last issue of the paper as usual until I could get down to write you this note. I am none too sure just what is to be cut off and what left on...for example if I remember correctly the Whitney bundle goes to some newsstand that they look after..if this is so of course you would not want it cut off. I am typing out below the complete list of bundles that go to the province of British Columbia. Would you please return to me as soon as possible the list as you wish it to remain. As Angus is not yet in Vancouver I will continue his until he notifies us otherwise. I will also of course continue White's bundle

E. MacDonald	3356 W. 13 Ave	Vancouver	200 copies
Lloyd Whalen	1851 Adanca St.		25
Mrs L. Whitney	949 S.E. Marine Drive	New Westminster	30
Alex Fergusson	P.O. Box 50	Lynn Creek B.C.	10
Kunguan News Agency	631 Carnarvon St.	New Westminster	20
E. Paullner	33 East 22nd Ave.	Vancouver	5
F. Kirkpatrick	744 West 6th Ave.	Vancouver	10
R. Bullock	628 E. 4th St.	North Vancouver	10
D. Munro Premier	B. C.		10
Nanaimo Newsstand	Nanaimo,	B.C.	10

Would you let me know what the situation is on this list so that we can commence with the next issue of the paper to follow out your instructions. Is someone in contact with D. Munro and the Nanaimo Newsstand. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ They have never forwarded any payments to the Toronto office.

With regards to the Ukrainian literature; We have an excellent stock of all the pamphlets that we sent on to you. We are advertizing them in this issue of the paper. We have decided to sell them for the prices on the covers which makes them very reasonable in this day of high printing costs. All the titles are very good and we hope that Tom and the comrades have some contacts for them.

Through a bit of a mix-up we missed putting a short report on the Vancouver social along with the results of the Toronto raffle in the last issue of the paper

No doubt you have noticed that the F.I. is putting on a special subscription drive and are advertising a 6 month sub for 1.00 All of our comrades should have subs to the F.I. Possibly many of our readers would also like to subscribe. Would you take it up with the branch so that we can give the SWP a real hand in publishing a journal which is invaluable to us.

I am enclosing a letter from the Militant which may be of use to the branch. I have also forwarded a small roll of our letter-head for use in making out credentials, etc. We have only the one stamp Labor Challenge which gives the Natl. Office address. You could have ones made with just Labor Challenge or one of your addresses for about .50 cents ~~XXXXX~~.

Warmest regards

87 King St. W., Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.
Jan. 14, 1947

Wutney

Dear Comrade Bill:

Thanks for the return of Black Jacobins. We received it in good order, and we will certainly buy it and the Stalinist School of Falsification for you, if any of us are lucky enough to run across a copy.

We credited the donation to Britannia Beach; it was very welcome. We have a dozen places for every dollar! Enclosed are three slips for subs that have expired, with the current issue. Can you visit these people for renewals? The renewal work is most important, not only because it's a source of income for the party, but even more because it gives us a first-rate chance to see what effect our press is having, and do some concentrated political work on people who have read our paper for several months. Let us know how you make out with them, and whether you think they're good material for the party.

Here in Toronto we're planning a membership drive to try to reap some real fruit from the publicity we received in the election campaign. From all reports, the publicity was national, and should help to inspire our readers everywhere. While we don't expect a mass influx as a result of the campaign, we do think it gives us a favorable opportunity to approach readers and sympathizers and discuss what can be done.

Comradely yours,

January 15 1948

Dear Reg;

Bullock, Van.

Sorry for the long delay in answering your correspondence. Everything piled up during the financial drive and election campaign and while it is now almost caught up, that is the correspondence part, I have answered the outside points before answering yours. I have made this a general policy when confronted with making a choice as to which letters to answer as I feel that isolated comrades rely more on M.O. connections.

Sorry we slipped up on that little item that you sent in on the social. In the flurry and also attempting to amalgamate two issues we overlooked it. It is a very good little item but the next issue will be February so it is no rather dated. Will put the raffle results in manager's column this coming issue.

I have sent in the combination subscription and marked up the renewal. We have never had any L.C. credentials cards printed. There is a receipt form on the bottom of the sub card and in collecting pledges we have generally sent a comrade around who is known to the person in question. I have already mailed you a small roll of letterheads. We have only one stamp with L.C. on it but it also has the address of the M.O. on it which you would not probably want. I would suggest that the Vancouver branch get one made with the address of some one of the comrades on it. They only cost about a dollar.

I have also sent you in the mail just previous to this one the carbon copy of one of your letters which you accidentally forwarded to us along with the original. Enclosed in the letter are also two notes from the P.C. in reply to the request to revise the Vancouver sustaining pledge and the matter of members at large. You will note that nothing is said about the few words of explanation that you gave on the matter of the members at large. The P.C. members are aware of these remarks but since they are so sparse and after all may not necessarily be an entirely accurate synopsis of the branch opinion we are asking for a statement from the branch itself.

On the matter of the Internal bulletin...true, some while ago I had spent some time in preparing the bulletin but ~~the~~ new and more pressing work arose and I had to shove it aside. One of the reason why we passed up the other issue of L.C. in January was because we got terribly behind in every phase of our work but also we hope to get ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the bulletin out this next week. We plan to have in it not only the Convention report but also an article on the elections here, the financial drive and if possible a report on the past 6 months of activity.

I have sent off in the mail to Kirkpatrick a complete listing of recently expired subs. I understand that he is the new agent and have explained to him the exact situation. I do not know if we will be technically able to follow the Branch request for a monthly run off as for some months the number of expirations is so small it is hardly worth while and we have let them ride for one or two months. However we will do our best.

It is good to see the new comrades Berland and others coming along so well. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Who wrote the statement that they read out to the LPF branch. It was very good and we were sorry to have to cut it down for the paper. The Vancouver branch should keep the signed statement for their

(Lloyd Whalen)

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own files. It would be a good idea to start to keep a complete file of all the leaflets, press notices and so forth if you have not already started to do so.

We are quite pleased to see that the branch has Borland taking the platform in the coming meeting. These young fellows have a great capacity and we should give them lots of opportunity to develop. I am enclosing with this letter a letter that Borland sent to us but which was not published, one of the reasons being that it would require an extensive answer which we had no room for. Probably this question has been cleared up but I would like you to read it and when the opportunity presents itself casually steer around to the basic ideas expressed in the letter. Would you return the letter when you are through with it. I had intended to write him but just could not get around to it and it appears that I won't... certain aspect of the matter he raises might be an excellent topic for an internal educational.

I notice that you were discussing Mrs Burgoyne at one of the branch meetings. We have just received a letter from her along with a renewal in which she launches a bitter attack against the Stalinists for the Tribune articles which she asks us to reply to. She goes on to say that she disagrees with us and considers us to be "socialist perfectionists" however she respects our honesty... I have informed Byron rather fully of the details of the letter which we have not yet answered and have suggested that he drop down to see her and try to straighten her up.

Lloyd has sent me a letter in which he takes up the matter of the statement on Tom that you showed him. He is pretty hot under the collar and characterizes the statement as "a character assassination". He also takes up several other matters which I will reply to in a few days. Since it contained no sharp political charges he unfortunately considers it to be unprincipled. He misunderstands its whole intent which of course was entirely corrective. Tom's latest action of going over to Port Alburn and leaving the center is not very commendable for an N.C. member. He has not forwarded us any address since he returned to the West. Would you send me his present one so I can forward him the N.C. minutes which I hope to send out tonight.

We published all your contributions to the last issue with only one or two minor changes. That item on the Street railwaymen was put into trade union notes and the anti-stalinist last paragraph cutoff as we felt that the rest of the issue which had been planned was quite heavy with anti-Stalinist material and this added one would tend to give the paper a bad balance.

Before we go into the details of the next issue of the paper at our Editorial Board meetings we usually take time to go over the last issue and throw the floor open for criticism. There was one suggestion made on the Boilermakers article which you turned in which I thought you might like to hear. The comrades were of the opinion that articles of that type should start off with the news contained in them and then flow into the development of what had taken place prior to this that further explains the situation. If you will take a glance at that article you will note that the news story commences with "Now on the very last line on the front page. Most of the comrades were of the opinion that some of our readers might commence to read the article find nothing new ~~new~~ in the first few paragraphs and so skip it.

Can you handle a few assignments for the next issue. The date line is January 22nd... not very far off. Of course we do not mean that you

should write them up but rather see that we get them—try to assigne them to different comrades if possible. Here is what we would like to get plus anything else that you might think is important;

(1) Report on the IWA Convention held recently. The IWA is the first important union to announce its plans for the coming wage struggles . Probably we had someone there(Lloyd?) who could do a first rate job.

(2)We feel that we are not giving enough coverage to the doings of the Vancouver branch and would like to get a story on the meeting that you are holding on January 19th. Ellaline did a bit of a job on the last one but I do not believe she knew at the time what we wanted. Whoever takes this in my opinion should follow the pattern of the report of the Tronto meeting that appears in the Mid-October issue of Labor Challenge page 3. Perhaps not quite so long (about 3 pages) but with a few good quotes et c. I hope you have a copy of that issue so the comrade could read it over. Perhaps Ellaline or one of the new comrades would take that one.

Thanks for your excellent minutes of the branch meetings. The executive minutes are also interesting but if it puts you to very much trouble we will quite satisfied with the branch minutes.

Comradely yours

Ross Dowson

P.S. Have you any additional information on the Gervin affair on the B.C. Electric franchise...we have what appeared in the CCF News and the Pacific Tribune.

January 15 1947

To the Vancouver Branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party

Dear Comrades;

The National Secretary has brought to the attention of the Political Committee the following motion which appeared in the Vancouver Branch minutes of December 27 1946;

"That the matter of members at large generally be taken up with the N.C. and that in the case of B. Johnson and W. White in particular we request that for organizational purposes they be attached to the Vancouver Branch.....Carried"

After a considerable discussion on the above question the P.C. instructed the National Secretary to draw to the attention of the Vancouver branch Article III Section 3 of the Party constitution which states;

"Every member must belong to a duly constituted Branch of the Party in the territory where he resides, or at his place of work, if such a branch exists. In territories where no Branch exists applicants for membership shall be submitted as members-at-large."

and the first sentence of Article IV Section I which states "The basic unit of the party shall be the branch formed on a territorial or occupational basis."

The P.C. has been informed that Comrade Johnson lives at least 75 miles from Vancouver and very rarely finds himself in the position to even be in the city of Vancouver let alone attend party branch meetings and participate in the branch activities. Comrade White is in much the same position as he is at least 2½ hrs distant from Vancouver by boat and only able to make hurried and occasional trips to Vancouver.

On the basis of the above information the P.C. is unanimously of the opinion that the request of the Vancouver branch is un-constitutional, and requests that if the branch wishes to further pursue the matter that it amplify in some detail the motivations for the request.

comradely

R. Dowson for the P.C.

a. *Summer (JJA) 2002*

As shown in Table 1, the summer (JJA) 2002 was

characterized by a strong negative anomaly of the

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only transform him into a mere recording secretary but would hamstring the development of the party. As this question was obviously debatable, I informed the comrades of my own personal opinion and reported the correspondence to the next P.C. meeting which was held three days later. The P. C. disagreed with the opinion expressed by me and the branch was informed immediately.

The heated debate to which you refer as occurring at this meeting was not on the actions of the National Secretary with regard to the Stanton group, which the P.C. accepted as normal procedure, but was on the Stanton group itself. It was centered around Tom's personal attitude toward these comrades which was one of great hostility and bitterness, particularly with regard to Stanton. I have enclosed a copy of an excerpt from my letter to Tom which you mention elsewhere. I see nothing wrong with it. In previous correspondence I had received the impression that Tom on occasion had a tendency to lose his political perspective in estimating persons who had once differed with us. I may possibly be mistaken in this although I believe my impression was substantiated at the P.C. meeting where Stanton and others were discussed.

I think that you will agree that the party has to protect itself from a repetition of such occurrences as took place at the Toronto membership meeting of November 5th. I think you will also agree that the P.C. must see to it that those comrades who are honored with posts in the leading bodies of our party conduct themselves in a manner worthy of Bolsheviks. It is only in this way that we will develop the collective leadership so necessary to build the party.

I can assure you that the intent of our letter to Reg was quite the opposite of launching an unprincipled campaign of factionalism. After all what could possibly be the motivation of such a campaign? I can only add that it is unfortunate that its purpose, which is so clear to the P.C., has been so wrongly interpreted by you.

I wonder if you could forward Tom's new address so that we could send him a copy of the P.C. minutes.

Warmest regards

Comradely,

R. Dawson

Excerpt from Letter to Tom August 24th

..."It would be unfortunate if Shachtman was able to build up some kind of outfit in opposition to us in Vancouver. But I am doubtful if even he could build an outfit out of Van, Lamont, etc. The comrades should consider their relationship with these people and anyone that they may have around them very cautiously. Our differences with these people must be made obvious to any and all their supporters to be of a deep and serious political nature and not involving any past personal differences. Lamont's position on the last war can be forgiven, not forgotten, if he would take a correct position on the coming war. We must be careful to not appear to be grudge politicians. If any of them are opposed to defence of the S.U. as being no longer a worker's state we should not let them use this to justify the erection of an opponent party. I personally am confident that we could assimilate persons with this position. But on the war, the Russian revolution, the need for a Bolshevik party, U.N.O. etc —we must make these the issues, and here we must be uncompromising. I have heard about Lamont's position on UNO and in the last bulletin I became familiar with Van..they are apparently hopeless cases but it is possible that they may attract a few good elements around them.

March 22 1947

Dear Lloyd; (Whelan)

I have just received some information from Montreal which is of importance to the organization nationally and in particular to the Vancouver comrades. I am sending this information to you but would like you to let it be known to the members of the N.C. in Vancouver...Reg, Muriel and Angus.

The organizational director of the IWA recently advanced a considerable sum of money to the Quebec regional office of the CCL for the long awaited organizational drive. Suddenly a few weeks ago orders came from Portland calling the whole thing off.

So and so was at Ottawa this week and was told by Prichett that it was called off for the following reasons; Fergusson dropped into Dan O'Brien's office and is supposed to have told O'Brien that the Trotskyists had four of the people that were on the pay roll in Quebec and were taking over the bushworkers through the IWA. O'Brien passed this information onto Prichett and he wired Portland who subsequently put a finish to the drive.

The only persons at all familiar with what is developing in Quebec around the IWA were the members of the P.C. in Toronto and yourself who we understand are in correspondence with Quebec....perhaps I should say these were the only persons who should have been familiar with developments there. What Fergusson knows and how I have not the slightest idea. Of course there may not be the slightest bit of truth in Prichett's statements about Fergusson...just as there was no truth in what Fergusson was alleged to have said.

Wherever the truth may lie I think you will agree that this is a very serious matter. If Fergusson did shoot his mouth off to that poisonously friendly trade union bureaucrat O'Brien he should be taken to task. Repetition of such incidents can be very dangerous. I am of the opinion that it would be advisable for you to have a talk with Fergusson on this matter and see what he has to say.

Of course nothing should be said to O'Brien as it would only confirm any suspicions that they may have that So and so is one of us.

comradely yours

Ross

March 28 1947

Dear Reg;

(Bollock, Vax.)

I had intended to write you much sooner but seem to have got tied up in a lot of odds and ends. I took some notes on several items that I had intended to take up with you but I see that time has already answered most of them.

No doubt you received the circular letter from the P.C. on the sub drive that we plan to launch very shortly. I gather from your March 5 letter that you are under the impression that this drive is an added financial burden to the party. On the contrary we make money on a 25 cent sub... ..in this way. It is almost as cheap to run a three thousand press run as it is a two thousand run so we always have many copies of the paper in excess of our sub list which presently stands around the 800 mark. With second class mailing rights it costs very little to mail the paper to persons outside Toronto area. Inside the Toronto area it cost one cent a copy, outside about one ~~one~~ tenth of a cent a copy. The addressograph plate and frame cost 5 cents complete and all the extra labor is voluntary. We make profit on it in the sense that our press run has to be in excess of our sub list anyway. The sub campaign and the money coming from this is already worked out in our budget.

We hope to hear from Vancouver and all outside points on the sub quotas and the preparations for the campaign as soon as possible as the campaign is to start on April 15. We want to carry the announcement in that issue of the paper and the date line is April 7 or 8. I hope that the Vancouver branch can mobilize all its forces right from the start for house to house work etc. The quotas are we think quite realizable particularly Vancouver on the basis of its membership. Toronto has taken up a considerable portion more than her fair share but the comrades are already making preparations and feel confident that they can make it. They are planning two sub rallies of all comrades each week for door to door work. They are starting off the first week as we found that three months was none too long last year. Will you let us know the Vancouver decision right away.

We are also anxious to know what the results were after the branch financial structure was modified to meet the constitutional requirements of the party. Kalline has written nothing further.

We have heard nothing more on the discussion that arose on the membership status of the comrades who live in outside points in B.C. I understand that some comrades were instructed to draft a statement for the branch to be forwarded to the N.O. I think we should thrash this out now and not let it drop only to have it arise again. Could we have this statement for the next P.C. meeting which is planned for next week. We are planning a new bulletin which we hope to be able to get out between the May Day issue and mid May. This would be good material for it.

I suppose all the comrades have received their copy of the convention bulletin which includes the constitution....took a long time but finally.... with the next bulletin we will do much much better

That sentence in your February 10th letter--"Lloyd reports that as far as can be learned the McK group approximates 100 members-Branch in Van, one on V.I. and contacts on singles and cell form across the country" sort of put ~~EX~~ us off the beam. As you noticed no doubt from the next P.C. minutes we all got steamed up over the possibilities that seemed to suddenly arise. Lloyd and Tom have subsequently clarified the situation. Nothing ~~irreparable~~ irreparable done. I will send the I.S., who gets a copy of all P.C. minutes, a letter of explanation.

Think that the branch did a splendid job in the handling of the WP situation. The most recent developments towards unity were just as much a surprise to us as they were to you. We had no inkling of them until Murray went down to the special plenum called in N.Y. to discuss the matter. In the next issue of L.C. we are carrying a joint W.P. SWP statement. There is no doubt that some of the U.S. branches are going to go through a bit of a hell but all around I am of the opinion that it is a splendid development which will result in a splendid growth of our movement in the U.S. and internationally particularly in Europe.

We are glad to see that the branch is doing some good recruiting and that the new comrades are developing so well. If I remember correctly somewhere in one of your letters you take up the matter of Borland going to the Summer camp of the SWP. I am supposing that you know that the SWP offered last year to finance the keep of one of our comrades to the school that was held at the camp. As yet we do not know whether this offer still hold for this summer. I am going to enquire but in the meantime I am of the opinion that nothing should be said about this. I am inclined to believe that what with the more difficult financial situation in the SWP that the offer will not hold for this summer. As soon as we hear we will discuss the matter in the P.C. and N.C. ~~XXX~~ We did not take advantage of last years offer because the comrades who deserved the opportunity were unable to go and we did not have at the time anyone ~~XXXXXX~~ whom we thought was of the calibre and serious intentions required to deprive some American comrade of the opportunity. In the meantime all comrades who can afford to go should definitely be encouraged to plan their vacation ~~XXXX~~. All the reports that I heard were full of praise for the educational opportunities that were there and the good comradeship.

comradely

Ross

March 28 1947

(Whalen)

IS = International Sec. (Fi))

Dear Lloyd;

I am enclosing a copy of a document from the I.S. on the British Party. I wonder if you would do a hurry up circulation job with it amongst the N.C. members there as the P.C. is thinking of taking it up at its next meeting and it would be well if we had on hand any remarks or proposals on the matter that any of you comrades would care to make. Unfortunately this is the only copy we have so we are unable to circulate it widely and it will be necessary to do a fast job with it. Would you return it airmail as soon as you three at 1851 and Reg have seen it as we expect to meet this coming week. Received your note on AF this morning.

Comradely

Koss

NC = National Ctee RWP
PC = Political Ctee RWP
= (NC member resident
at Toronto Centre)



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

1947 MAR 29 AM 11:51

VRB38 41 NL

VANCOUVER BC 28

ROSS DOWSON 1719

ROOM 5 87 KING ST W TOR

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ON LABOR FRONT CAN YOU HOLD TYPE OF
CURRENT ISSUE OF PAPER FOR SPECIAL FRONT PAGE SET UP FOR B.C.
PROPOSE TO USE FIVE THOUSAND EXTRA HERE FIFTEEN HUNDRED WORDS
GO IN MAIL TOMORROW WITH BACKGROUND AND TACTICAL PERSPECTIVE
R W BULLOCK

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY

Canadian Section of the Fourth International



March 31 1947

Dear Reg;

We received your letter on blue paper on Monday morning with the enclosed clippings. On the same afternoon we received the copy of the Bill itself.

The deadline for this issue is Saturday morning April 5th. A little earlier than usual but we want to be sure and get the next issue which is the May Day issue in the hands of all branches for sure on May Day ~~before~~ so we have been compelled to move this one up a little. The Easter holiday is also hitting us through the printer taking time off. So any material that you want in this issue will have to be here on the Saturday morning.

We have ~~decided~~ decided to make your story on the anti-labor drive the lead for this issue. It seems to me that the bill itself is small potatoes compared to the ~~NATIONAL~~ proposed national labor laws that have been temporarily stalled by the H of C. I suppose you have received the last issue and noted the article on Duplessis' contribution to the drive....which is even more restrictive than the ~~NATIONAL~~ proposed national code.

The fact that the provincial restrictions have been passed with little opposition from the labor movement makes it all the more probable that the even more reactionary national code will soon be sent on its way through the house. There has been little about B.C. labor's position on the Hart governments code except for a statement by Prichett that appeared in this morning's paper. However I gather ~~from~~ from your letter that it has aroused considerable interest and protest from the labor movement. I see Talman has an article in the latest issue of CCF News. It may be that the B.C. labor movement may launch the movement that will possibly sink the proposed national code.

It is unfortunate that the last issue had been already broken up when we received your wire. However in looking over the issue we would have had a tough time in reshaping the front page without destroying the whole balanced plan of the issue. At any rate the other issue of the necessary funds would have loomed very large.

We are very anxiously awaiting word from the Vancouver branch on its revised financial status. We are not worried about special press runs at all. The situation is developing very rapidly ~~we~~ we are wondering how we will be able to continue the paper on its present basis...as a twice monthly. Toronto and Montreal just cannot sustain the paper financially by themselves. We have

been holding back a financial report for sometime now pending the report of the Vancouver situation.

We sent off the remaining two hundred copies bringing the total number of the April issue Vancouver has received to 500 copies. This issue should be extremely valuable for distribution to Stalinist meetings. The Toronto comrades have covered the needle trade market where Stalinism is quite an issue.

Time out.....we have just decided to run a front page editorial on the anti-labor drive. A call to action along the lines that you suggest at the bottom of your last letter.

How many copies of the coming issue do you want ?

Hope that you can make the deadline with all the material that you are planning to send in...we will be waiting for it.

We would specially like any news that the labor movement has taken to fight the Hart plans

comradely



Ross

What is the situation on the sub quota ??????

April 2 1947

Dear Ellaline;

Enclosed you will find the receipts for the funds that came in this morning's mail....~~XXXX~~ thanks.

On Monday morning after receiving Reg's letter we shipped via express another 200 copies of the April issue of Labor Challenge. That makes 500 copies in all for that issue as I had taken the liberty of increasing your usual order by one hundred. I think you will agree that it is an excellent issue to hand out to Stalinist meetings or for that matter any left wing rallies. The Toronto comrades distributed about 1200 copies in the needle trades market. The Stalinists were surprisingly apathetic..I know just a short while ago there would have been fist fights but this time they took it with a few grumbles. The issue is I think very well balanced with the editorial appeal to LPPers and the article on red-baiting. I hope you are able to hit some good meetings with it. The idea of covering the OSU hall is a good one.

We have just sent off in the mail the cloth copy of Cannon's Struggle for a Proletarian Party. That brings the Vancouver book account up to 6.47 I think....check.

How many copies of the May Day issue does the branch want. I understand that there will be a May Day parade out there. This should provide us with a good field for distribution. Would you take this up at the next meeting and let us know if you can use extra copies and how many. Is the branch planning a May Day meeting this year? If so would you give us full particulars so that we can run an ad in L.C. This information will have to be in very soon as we are going to press extra early so that you will have the May Day issue in your hands a day or so before the first.

Is everything getting under way for a bang up start with the sub drive? The special sub cards will be in your hands in a few days. I think we will be able to snip them off in tonight's mail. The Toronto comrades are going to give you quite a race for that copy of The Problems of The Chinese Revolution. We have a new comrade in Edmonton that will be in there all the way also.

comradely

Ross

April 2 1947

(Wheeler)

(Malcolm) Bruce?

Dear Tom;

We were very happy to receive your short note of March 10 . Just after receiving your letter and remarks on the McKean situation we received a letter from Lloyd. Apparently Reg threw the P.C. off the beam in one of the minutes that he forwarded to us. This is what he had to say;

"Lloyd reports that as far as can be learned the McK g group approximates 100 members--Branch in Vanc., one on V.I., and contacts in singles and cell form across the country."

Lloyd only confirmed what you had to say on the situation . It is interesting to see Bruce's development. What does he mean about being interested in the setting up of a Marxist Party. What does he think the RWP is. ~~XX~~

We have heard nothing further from the Vancouver comrades on ~~the~~ the question of the organizational set-up there . I ~~XXXX~~ understand that a couple of comrades were instructed to draw up a statement on the question. We should get it soon and when we do we will possibly put it in the coming internal bulletin along with some material we are planning on trade union tactics.

I hope you received a copy of the constitution and the report of the founding convention. Late but better late than never. But I think we are now gradually systematizing our work so that we won't have quite the difficulty that we have up to now.

I have stopped sending you a copy of the paper as I understand from one of your letters you are getting it from Vancouver. What do you think of the last few issues? Have you any suggestions. I was sending them in closed envelopes as we do not know what kind of a town you are living in---company or otherwise..and if your mail is under scrutiny.

What are the possibilities of taking a small bundle of papers each issue or placing the paper on the newsstands if there are any good ones.

I was telling Ruth the other day what a treasure we had in you---all your experiences in the great rtrade union battles of the last two and a half decades. She agrees with me that it is a pity to leave your experiences unrecorded. How are you fixed for time. We wonder if it would be at all possible now for you to sit down and write out a history of the heroic struggles of the Canadian workers by a participant. This would be a marvellous addition to the columns of Labor Challenge. What do you think. They would not even have to be a connected series.

I hope this letter finds you well and that you don't have to work too hard to keep ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ your feet under the table.

Page

April 3 1947

(Bullock, Van.)

Dear Reg:

We received your batch of minutes and letters this morning. I am not going to attempt to take up any of the points raised therein in this letter but I want to get this off to find out the score on two matters.

1st I failed to notice anywhere in the minutes anything about a May Day meeting. Those comrades of the P.C. that I have been able to contact are unanimously in agreement with the idea that wherever possible our branches should try to hold a May Day meeting. It would be desirable to hold a united front May Day meeting or demonstration but failing the possibility our comrades should hold one of their own. I think nothing need be said about the importance of celebrating May Day.

It should be possible to hold a very successful meeting in Vancouver. Particularly since the rest of the labor movement is rather passive about its celebration and yet this day is a traditional day of celebration for the advanced elements of the proletariat. The Toronto branch has hired a hall and is bringing in a guest speaker from the U.S. They are I understand advertising in the daily press and putting out a leaflet.

If it is at all possible and we think that everything should be done to hold such a meeting it would be a good idea if we were able to put out a leaflet. We have on hand the May Day cut that we used in last years May Day issue of L.C. which I think you will agree is very good. If the branch decides to hold such a meeting and to put out a leaflet we would be only too pleased to send the cut along so you could use it on your leaflet.

There is another matter which I suppose should really be taken up with Ellaline but I hope you will excuse my putting in this letter. The SWP is publishing an internal bulletin devoted exclusively on the Russian question. It is 64 pages and sells at .50 cents a copy. The SWP is opening up discussion on this matter. Needless to say this bulletin will be invaluable to the SWP and all comrades should have a copy. Todate we have been sending these bulletins to the various comrades and branches in very small numbers. Would the branch at its next meeting raise the matter of the bulletin and enquire how many comrades want copies of the bulletin so the national office can order in good time.....cash on the line unfortunately.

Will write more fully shortly

March

comradely

Ross

XX April 4 1947

(McPhee, Prince Rupert)

Dear Angus;

I must apologize for not having answered you letters sooner...but it is the old story of having a lot of other important ~~things~~ things to do.

It is good to hear that there are possibilities of Prince Rupert undergoing a bit of a revivification at a later date. I have not yet had a chance to write Dave but he has been getting everything that has been going out and as you know they have sent in a few renewals. I will write them tonight if I have a chance. No I do not think that we should write P.R. off the books at all...even at its present size and importance there are excellent possibilities of building a first rate group. After all it remains one of the largest towns in B.C. and we have already the cadres for an excellent branch. I gather that Dave is quite a capable comrade and I think that everything should be done to encourage them to go forward and try to hold a study class etc. We are trying to build branches in much smaller and less important towns. We are only in the unfortunate position of having to strengthen those spots where we are strongest....we are still paying off for our past.

Sorry to see that you are having such a difficult time trying to locate a home and get a satisfactory job. It is a good idea to get into the Carpenter's Brotherhood and get a skill. When the depression hits we want to be with the workers in the unions in industry...the unemployed movement is not near so fruitful for us even though it may rouse mass and militant actions. It would be even preferable of course if we could get into the IWA where the Vancouver comrade already have a fairly extensive influence.

We received the Vancouver branch statement on the membership at large matter just the other day. We are considering ~~XXXXXX~~ the possibility of putting out a bulletin shortly and we may include the statement. The matter is going to be taken up at the P.C. meeting that we are holding this coming Sunday

the information

Thanks for the information on McKean. It confirms ~~XXXXXX~~ that we have since received from both Lloyd and Tom. The P.C. went off the track on the basis of faulty information in one of Reg's reports. Amazed by his fantastic anti-semitism. While he appears to have ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ undergone a considerable ~~XX~~ development in the past period he has a long ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ way yet to go. He is terribly tarred with the brush of Stalinism....I understand he has no radical tradition whatsoever having gone into the party in the early thirties. I don't think we should waste too much time on him but get him to subscribe to L.C. the FI ~~XXX~~ sell him all the literature we can and let him stew in his own juice for a while. Even if he most earnestly desired to come in to the party it would require the most cautious consideration on our part. Since he appears to represent nothing I hesitate to grace any meetings of our comrades with him or his odd friend with the name of conference. There of course never could be any compromise politically and the situation being as it is none organizationally either.

We are sending a small bundle of paper to E. Russel at Chilliwack but as yet have not heard from this comrade. McGuire at Donnelly has never corresponded with us nor does he get any papers. If I remember

correctly when you first sent in his name I sent him a few copies but he never has gotten in touch with us or even sent in for a sub.

Warmest regards

comradely

Ross Dowson

April 14 1947

(Britannia Beach)

Dear Comrade White;

I am enclosing with this letter a n itemized statement of the book order that you sent in sometime ago. Since it is for the Educational Committee I thought we should do it up formal. I have marked it up with a 25% discount which if I remember correctly most labor publishing outfits usually give to the trade union movement.

Kerr Publishers have informed us that Proletarian Lessons is now out of print. So your order has been completed as far as it is possible.

I hope that you have been receiving all the various letters bulletins, etc that we have been sending out to you....and that you will be able to throw ~~the~~ weight behind the sub campaign that is opening up tomorrow. For the sake of convenience and our lack of knowledge of what the possibilities in Britannia Beach might be we have included your quota in with Vancouver which stands at 300 new subs. Byron Johnson is also covered by the Vancouver quota. He has started off with a bang by sending in via this mornings mail 6 new subs. I think that it may be a little tougher this year than last. I see that the Pacific Advocates campaign did not make the grade. the greater scarcity of money and the red baiting and anti-Soviet campaign will have its toll but I think we should be able to make it if we get off to a good start. I am confident that Vancouver this year ~~will~~ with its added forces will go well over its quota. Will you be able to get any help from Malm and any other of our close sympathizers?

In the mail previous to this one you received a circular letter on the ~~XXXX~~ financial situation of the party. You will note that there was nothing said about the dues payments. I have you marked up as having paid both January and February dues.

What is new in the trade union situation? We should be able to do some very effective work in the educational-PAC committee, particularly when it appears to be composed of three elements who are at least mildly sympathetic to us. Did you get the copies of the model resolution on the sliding scale? A group of our Toronto comrades in a UE local are putting on quite a drive for it. You probably noticed that one of our comrades here has been able to get his local to include it amongst their demands for ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the coming contract. Whalen put up quite a fight against the Stalinists distortion at the recent IWA Wage Conference.

Paddy is working at a plant organized by the Steelworkers. Unfortunately he is on steady night shift but he got a bunch of the boys to sign it for presentation to a coming union meeting which is taking up demands for the coming contract. The night shift gang is rather small and does not have meetings of its own.

What do you think of Labor Challenge recently? I hope that you have found it a great aid in your work in the local. Quite a good article of Reg Bullocks on the anti-labor drive in B.C. Has your local taken ~~any~~ any stand on the anti-labor laws? What was the reaction of the fellows on the call to action? As you can well imagine we played a considerable role in forcing Duplessis' retreat in Quebec.

Paddy has been telling me that he would like to get a copy of Black Jacobins by CLR James to send out to you. This book has been out of print for some time now and I was wondering if you would like me to send my copy out to you on loan.

I hope you will be able to attend the gathering that the Vancouver comrades have arranged for this coming week-end. We would appreciate it if you could give us your impressions as a sort of supplement to the report that the Vancouver secretary will be sending in.

comradely

Ross Dowson

April 16 1947

To the Executive Committee of the Vancouver Branch ;
Dear Comrades;

The Political Committee welcomes the news of the organization of your projected Conference. However we note in the proposed agenda drawn up by the Vancouver branch an item Number 7—Election of Officers.

Only last week we received your document on the relationship to the Vancouver branch of the various comrades in the province of British Columbia who are at present considered members at large of the party.

The P.C. at its last meeting found itself in disagreement with the Vancouver document and has instructed the National Secretary to draw up a statement in reply to the position expressed therein. The P.C. is of the opinion that the position expressed in your document is contrary to the party constitution and if adopted would set a dangerous organizational precedent. We intend as soon as possible to amplify our position on this matter.

However, for this conference to hold an election of officers or in other words to set up a formal organizational structure is in our opinion to already act on your position prior to the P.C. being given the opportunity to express itself.

We might also draw to your attention that according to Article IV, Section III of the constitution, Provincial or District Executive Committees can only be formed in such cases as may be decided by the National Committee (the party's authoritative body between national conventions)

We strongly urge the branch to remove this item from the conference agenda and that no formal organizational structure of any kind be erected until the whole matter can be clarified to the satisfaction of the entire organization.

comradely

R. Dowson for the P.C.

April 16 1947

Dear Comrades:

The Political Committee on behalf of the entire organization sends greetings to the April 18, 19 Conference of the Vancouver Branch of the Revolutionary Workers Party and several West Coast members at large.

We are confident that the discussions on the many problems common to you all will pave the way to closer cooperation in the historic task which we have set ourselves----the building of the Canadian section of the World Party of the Socialist Revolution.

With revolutionary communist greetings

Ross Dowson
for the P.C.

April 23 1947

Dear Reg;

Bullock

Ruth Benson (Surrey in Toronto)

Well how did the conference come off? We are all waiting to see your report. No doubt you have been too busy to acknowledge receipt of the recent mail that I forwarded you. I hope that the two letters from the P.C. reached you in good time for the conference.

We were sorry either you or one of the other comrades were unable to cover the CCF Convention ~~AL~~ for the paper. We waited and waited for the copy but finally wrote it up ourselves on the basis of the clippings that someone sent in. It was a last minute job and bourgeois newspaper clippings are pretty cold stuff to work from particularly when you only have a rough knowledge of the BC CCF and its leadership but I hope it meets with the comrades approval. Just for the hell of it I timed myself on the writing of it. Sunday evening I spent a couple of hours reading over the material and digesting it. The next day I started to work on it at nine o'clock in the morning and with about an hour for lunch I finished it at exactly 4 o'clock.....6 hours. It is pretty cold and general because not having much to work on I did not dare make any speculations etc.

It appears that it will be off the presses tomorrow for sure so it will arrive in Vancouver in good time for the distributions that you are planning. We put in the statement by that young LPPER who was expelled ~~XXX~~ so all in all I think that it is very well designed for Vancouver distribution.

It is unfortunate that the branch was unable to arrange a May Day celebration. This is certainly one of the three or four days that our party should celebrate (Nov 7, Lenin, and Trotsky Memorials May Day) It is particularly unfortunate this time as we are distributing 2000 papers and where will a worker go if he wants to meet us? To get around this I have taken the liberty to insert a small add in this issue addressed to Vancouver readers who desire to know further about the RWP and I have given your name and address. I know that this normally might not be a good thing to do without enquiring beforehand but I just thought of it this morning. Furthermore we have already published your name and address along with Ellaline's during the financial drive and of course you are well known in the T.U. movement as a Trotskyists so I am sure you will not mind. I think that it would be a good idea if the branch considered taking out a Post Office Box in the name of either Labor Challenge or the RWP, I think the former would be preferable, so that we can carry a box in the paper advertising the existence of the Vancouver branch until we can obtain a headquarters. The Montreal comrades are getting a box. We need not use it if it would be too inconvenient for all our correspondence. I do not know where you live in relation to a post office but we can always arrange that. I think they cost about 4 or 5 dollars a year.

I see that Ruth sent you quite a long letter on the last article you submitted. I hope you do not think she was too rough on you

She sure takes it out on my copy but I am in a better position here in Toronto to fight back. It is unfortunate that you were not able to attend the excellent classes Ruth gave to the Toronto comrades on journalism for the revolutionary press. If we ever get a chance we will mimeograph copies of the speeches and circulate them through the party. She sure knows her stuff. After all she has been on the Militant staff for sometime and from all the groans that Art Preiss and all the rest of the Militant staff put up when they learned that she was leaving them I gather that she practically ran the paper. Ruth is certainly doing an excellent job on the paper and helping the Toronto comrades learn how to write. I know that she would be pleased to take up ~~any~~ further with you or any other of the comrades some of the matters with which she dealt in her letter.

I have meant to ask you ~~XXXXXXX~~ for sometime now just what this item appearing in Executive C'ttee Report Dated 18/3/47 means; "Motion; that Branch develop and assign a system of p.n.'s (carried)

I wonder if you could give me an idea of literature sales in the branch. I suppose I should ask Klallina but I have just sent a ~~xxx~~ letter off to her this afternoon and it slipped my mind. Would you ask her if she could give us a rough idea of literature sales in the branch. I intend to draw up a report of party ~~XXXXXX~~ activities and developments shortly and the information would be useful...does it have to be too detailed.

We didn't have room in the CCF article to take up ~~XXXX~~ the scandalous role of the CCF M.P.'s in the B.C. Electric franchise. This would make a good article for the paper or at the very least an excellent letter to the editor....can we get some other comrades to try a hand at this work....how about our new comrades?

We received the statement on the members at large question but up until now just have not been able to find time to do anything on it. However now that the paper is cleared away we will be able to get to work on it. The P.C. statement should be in your hands in about a week.

No! F.G. Bonn of Port Hammond is not a party member. As a matter of fact I did not know that he had sent in the subs until I checked up in the paper--I was in Montreal when they came in. I know he has subscribed to the paper for sometime but that is all. By all means it would be an excellent idea to try to make connections with him. He bought quite a few books last February. In his recent letter he only enclosed the names addresses and money. Murray wrote him a nice letter in reply but he has not picked it up. Probably you can do the trick...send him some campaign subs. perhaps.

of
You will be pleasantly surprised by the terrific start ~~XXXX~~ the sub campaign. The subs entered under Vancouver are not properly campaign subs but since they came in since the start of the campaign we have included them in the tally. Klallina tells us that the branch has laid extensive plans for house to house canvass. The Toronto branch's first canvass netted 24 subs. We have had to cancel our week night rally as we found it got dark too early and we did not get anywhere but we are continuing with our Saturday afternoon rally ~~XXXXX~~. Day light saving will be here next week and we will go back to our two a week rallies and more if we find it necessary.

I note that Lloyd gave a report on the Civil Liberties Union. We have tried to get in touch with the civil liberties groups down here but with no success. What there is appears to be merely an office front for some big shot liberals and business men. We are of the opinion that it is vitally important that all comrades should become members and as many possible try to take an active roll in this organization. It is a splendid field for work--in B.C. it should be extremely favourable with the Japanese issue. Not so much as a form of insurance but to aid in the fight against the curtailment of civil liberties, and this is going to become an even more pressing task, and to make ourselves and our party known to the workers particularly the most oppressed elements as a genuine first rank fighter for their rights. There is no doubt that this field is going to become more important and organizations such as this have great possibilities of development.

comradely

ROSS

P.S. Personally I am of the opinion that this idea of approaching the unions for five minutes of their time to permit a comrade to speak on behalf of the paper is a little bit premature.

Just received a letter from Ellaline reporting that one comrade sold 25 subs in one day---terrific.

Wednesday April 23 1947 ✓

Dear Ellaline;

I mailed the ten copies of the Internal Bulletin on the Russian question just the other day. For some unknown reason when we did the first mailing of them I sent 4 copies off to Reg instead of you...the second bundle of 6 copies should be at your place now.

I have just come from the printers and it seems quite certain that the paper will be coming off tomorrow which will be lots of time to get to Vancouver by Ray first. We will mail them just as soon as they come off the press. This issue is right up the alley for distribution in Vancouver. Ray Rintoul's statement just arrived in time to get under the dead-line. We have published it almost in full and as it stood. After wrestling for over ten hours I managed to get the article out on the B.C. CCF convention from the material in the press clippings.

It is unfortunate that the branch was unable to hold a May Day meeting so that persons who picked up the paper from distributions would be able to meet the party. It is certainly one of the three or four meetings that our party should try to hold if at all possible. I am sure that this issue will provoke considerable interest at the May Day parade and other points of distribution and so that interested persons will have some way of getting in touch with ~~XXXXXX~~ you Vancouver comrades we have taken the liberty of putting a small item in the paper requesting that interested persons get in touch with Reg and we gave his address. I figure this is alright with him as we gave both your and his address during the last financial drive. I am of the opinion that it would be well if we rented a post office box until we can get a headquarters which could be advertised in the paper.

It is good to see that newsstand sells are so good. Do you have the P.I. on the stands? Thanks for the subs that have come in recently. All the new ones have been entered into the first campaign report as campaign subs. The campaign has got off to a good start in Toronto and in the Prairies. Will you send the new subs in as soon as you get a few gathered together as I can see if they do not come in at a regular flow we will be having an administrative jam down here.

Best of luck with the sub work and distribution on May Day

comradely

May 2 1947

Dear Ruth;

(Bullish, Van.)

Ellaline has just written us that you are the campaign manager of the sub drive in Vancouver. I see that you have got off to an excellent start. We received in yesterday's mail 37 subs that had been obtained in the Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster areas plus a money order for \$9.35. In her last letter Ellaline informed us that one of the comrades had obtained 25 subs himself. This certainly demonstrates the great possibilities of the campaign. At this rate it looks certain that the Vancouver branch will more than top its quota. The resulting list of readers will provide a good base for next fall's forums and other activities and the building of the party.

We will be carrying a column on the progress of the campaign and we need regular reports from the various campaign managers of how their work is progressing in the various areas. The ~~WEEK~~ dead line of the paper is the 9th and the 23rd of each month. Would you be sure to send us in material, short remarks by various sub getters how they did it, reactions of persons who subscribed and so forth. It is only with material of that character that we can make the column inspirational and encourage friends and sympathizers to give us a hand. We also want the column to truly reflect the progress of the campaign. So will you be sure to gather all the subs on hand and send them in so they reach us here in Toronto on the 9th and 23rd. Of course if you are able we would like to hear from you much more often than just twice a month...this is the minimum necessity.

I hope you have some ideas that will be useful to other branches and members in the drive. We expect to put a circular letter out shortly.

What has happened to Reg these days....we have been expecting to hear ~~from him~~ from him for some time now.

comradely

We had a very inspiring May Day meeting here yesterday. Will probably carry a full report in the next issue of the paper. ~~How~~ your distribution went off well.

MAY 7 1947

Dear Reg;

Enclosed you will find a copy of the P.C. reply to the Vancouver branch statemnt on this problem of members at large and their relationship to the branch. You will note that we have appended to it a copy of the branch's statement. Copies have been sent to the N.C. members (that is of both statements.). We have not yet received the report on the conference that you held last month but Byron has written us ~~nothing~~ and we understand that W.W. White was there also. From Byron's letters we gather that there was some discussion on this very question so we have sent copies of both statements to White and Johnson for their information.

Two copies have been sent to the Whalen-Macphee- Bradely address. If ~~anyone~~ anyone from P.R. was there I think it would be a good idea to get one of the above two copies and forward it to them for their information. It might also be a good idea since the branch adopted a statement on the matter to have copies of both statements typed out and circulated around the branch membership for clarification.

Did the branch consider that ~~the~~ its statement was material for an internal bulletin ? ????? ~~no~~ If it does we will include it in the next one along with the P.C. statement and this would save you typing copies for the Vancouver comrades. Perhaps if there is further discussion someone would like to submit a more rounded document

Congratulations on the militant struggle the comrades put up in defence of the right to distribute our paper. Wish we were there to give you a hand. Our meeting was very successful but much more ~~like~~ placid.

The date line of this issue of the paper is the 9th so I must get to work on my assignments. Will write further a little later on next week.

warmest regards

Ross

★ (Stalinist attack)

May 13 1947

Dear Ellaline;

With this letter we are enclosing a couple of receipts that have been accumulating here plus the latest list of expired subs in the B.C. area. The Toronto comrades are not bothering with expired subs during the sub campaign but are holding them until after it is all over. We will send them out as we pull the plates from the racks ~~XXX~~ so that Vancouver can do them when they desire however.

I gather from Reg's report that the comrades were rather badly beaten up. I gather however that they all made a good showing of themselves and continued on with the other comrades with the distribution. An unfortunate but and inevitable and in that sense perhaps a good experience. You might class it a sort of battle inoculation in preparation for the real and what will be a much more serious struggle. I don't doubt that the very good defence that they put up will make the Stalinists think twice before they pull off any such thing again. The Toronto comrades were quite inspired by the good battle you put up. I hope that all the comrades involved are alright except for a few ~~XXXXXX~~ bruises. Reg thought that perhaps one of them had a broken rib.

We were indeed fortunate that the May Day parade was postponed. I cannot understand why their May Day issue of the paper took so long. I saw them wheel the papers away when I took them down to the post office on the 24th. Perhaps it was due to the method of shipping them....as you know we sent them in bundles of 250 and they were not stamped but were weighed and went at a much cheaper rate. They cost \$3.60 to ship. That is also possibly the reason that they were not delivered to your door. From now on we will ship them in the bundles of 100 and each one stamped as this seems to go with first class mail or at least much faster anyway.

With regards to this issue....we have received your order for 1000 copies. It seems that this ~~XXXX~~ issue is going to be even later than we had expected. The way the ~~XXXX~~ dead line turned out because of the week-ends made it of necessity a little later than usual but we have had all the copy in now since Monday and it looks like we still won't get the paper off until late Wednesday afternoon....the printer is jammed up. This would make it that the earliest possible date that you could receive the mid May issue would be about the 20th. Rather late isn't it but can't be helped. So I am taking the liberty of cutting the order down to 500 copies so that the next issue won't be piling up on your hands the next week.. I hope this is alright. We are also cutting the entire press run down to the bone as our printing bill is mounting rapidly and threatens to get out of hand. The financial situation is so serious that the National Office just can't continue to subsidize the various branch distributions any longer as important as they are.

in

I have just sent off the the mail about 500 more sub cards. Sorry for the delay but we had to get some more printed. The comrades are doing an excellent job and it looks as if you will be giving Tronto a real run for the prize. I hope that you can use them all. I meant to ask you some time ago if you were keeping a tally of the individual pace setters. As you know the person getting the most subs will get a copy of Trotsky's Problems of the Chinese Revolution. Would you send in a list. Let us say of the top two sub getters and their score so that it makes the date line of each issue and we can publish it.

Sorry that we slipped up on one of the newsstands in the last issue. We have fixed it up in this one and have added the new stand onto the list.

Warmest regards

Ross

May 21 1947

(Bradley)

Dear Tom;

I have received your letter of May 5th but have been delayed in replying by a pile of other work. Probably by now you have received a copy of the document on the RCP and the British Labor Party. I sent you a copy to the old address in an envelope, I hope it was forwarded alright.

Vancouver is certainly doing an excellent job in the sub campaign and it looks as if Toronto is going to exert all her strength to keep ahead. Toronto's quota appears to have been too high but with an extra powerful push she should make it. I gather that the younger comrades are doing an excellent job in all the branch activities..... particularly Don Borland.

By now you have no doubt had lots of opportunity to look over the P.C. statement in reply to Vancouver's document on ~~NELX~~ members at large, and also the most recent minutes of the P.C. which again took up the problems posed by Vancouver. Unfortunately the P.C. statement had just been posted when we received your letter. I am of the opinion that the P.C. recommendation that the West Coast N.C. members constitute themselves as a temporary Organizational Committee for B.C. is probably the best solution. It meets the natural desire of the Vancouver comrades to help in the work of organizing other branches in the province and bringing present members at large in closer contact with the nearest party apparatus which should enable us with certain limitations to coordinate our activities. But it also preserves the structure and discipline of our ~~local~~ which I think would be seriously affected if the Vancouver branch executive was set up as a Provincial Executive.

The Organizational Committee composed of N.C. members and responsible to the National Committee can certainly aid in meeting the opportunities which I agree are developing for the recruiting of more members throughout the province and establishing branches. If we were to look at it from merely the point of view of administration I think this arrangement is more satisfactory. The branch executive is already tied up in the manifold activities of Vancouver and would only get hopelessly bogged down. If the National Committee approves this recommendation ~~XXXXXX~~ we should set up a functioning committee right away.

You are right there was a U.S. Party Bulletin published a short while ago on the setting up of THE OHIO STATE COMMITTEE of the SWP. The Ohio State committee was set up about six months ago. It is the

first and only state committee in the SWP which numbers in membership about 2000 and whose geographical dispersion is even greater than ours. I cannot find the builder at the moment but there are several party branches in the state of Ohio, all within an hour or so bus ride of each other with many members in the various branches in the same unions etc. I think that the situation was much the same in the old C.P. when they set up their district and provincial committees. They had several branches in a given area and they were able to coordinate their activities and thereby make them a hundred times more effective by setting up district committees.

---2

I cannot see any basis for the setting up of any such structure at our present stage of development anywhere in Canada. I think it significant that they have only one state committee in the entire American party. This committee coordinates activities of Branches and not members at large..... as would be the case with Vancouver.

Certainly a Provincial Committee is a thing for the future when we already have a few branches but as things stand at present I can see no basis ~~there~~ for setting up one. But if the comrades feel there will be increased opportunities of growth by the setting up of some body I am in agreement with the P.C. that it should take the form of a N.C. committee on the West Coast.

Would it be possible in the next week or so for the Vancouver N.C. members to get together and discuss the matter. I would at any rate like to have the opinion of all the N.C. members for the next .C. meeting so we could reach some kind of conclusion.

Reg informed us of the very fine donation towards the procuring of a headquarters. It would certainly be the making of the ~~group~~ party on the West Coast, if we could obtain a reasonable place.

I hope you connect with your new job. Murray was in town last week for a few days and asked me to send you his regards.

comradely

Ross

June 2 1947

Dear Ellaline;

We have received your last batch of subs and the individual campaign scores but as you will have noticed by the last issue of the paper which you should have received by now....too late for the count. I notice that your letter is dated May 26. That was the absolute dead-line for the paper. We received your letter on the morning of the 28th. All of our copy had to be in on the 26th for it takes our print shop at least two days once they get the copy to make it ready for the press.

Vancouver is certainly doing a first rate job with the sub work..particularly Lloyd and Courttenay Gray. They are selling the subs in the best place as in the plants they can follow them up and tie the subscribers closer to us in the day to day work of the union. Factory subs are preferable but we cannot afford to be choosy. Nearly all of Toronto's subs are from door to door rallies. ~~XXX~~ The Toronto comrades are not so well situated as Vancouver for factory work so they are making up for it with two ~~XXX~~ ralkies per week for door to door canvassing.

I see that Lloyd and Courttenay between them have 109 subs and the branch total is 150. Of course it is inevitable that certain comrades should do better than others due to a combination of circumstances. But this seems to be completely out of proportion. I hope that the rest of the comrades will be able to pitch in and pull their share. These subscribers will provide a good base for party building next fall when we are able to get classes and public meetings going again

Let's try and get the score straightened up. I see I made a slip on tallying those subs enclosed with your April 21 letter. We have decided to not count any renewals sent in during the campaign. The April 21 letter included a renewal for 6 months for McDonnell and so should be scored for 2 ~~XXXXXXXX~~ subs as we are counting regular subs whether for a year or six months as only a sub.

~~XXXXXX~~ Mid May issue should have read therefor 101 instead of 99. I see that May 12 enclosed besides 37 campaign subs two others and therefore should have been scored as 39. May 26th letter enclosed 20 campaign subs but two one year renewals which do not ~~XXX~~ count.

The score should now stand at	101	as of Mid May
	39	May 12
	20	May 26

160

I hope this is right on the basis of not counting renewals during the campaign. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

We have made the two corrections on Prost and Hirt. I have checked back on the receipt book and find that we received a 1 year

renewal for W.D. Summers on April 16/47. The plate is in good order and everything appears to be normal. I cannot understand how he might have received a notice to renew his sub unless the notice crossed the renewal in the mail. According to the records he should have received issue 37 ~~but~~ possibly missed 36 ~~NNN~~. as his sub expired as your records reveal with issue 35. His sub is now in good order until issue 61.

We will certainly include the scores of your two top individual sub-getters in the next issue and best of luck in your railway shops and plants activities

Warmest regards

I wonder if the branch could clear up the outstanding literature account as we are really hard pressed for money. It amounts to \$6.47

June 4 1947

(Bollock)

(Ruth Benson) → (Su Pa
Toronto)

Dear Reg;

At last I have been able to get back to the correspondence. Ruth was away for a week on a visit to New York and besides having to put the paper through the printers hands on its final stage I had much other work to do.....I suppose the sub-campaign was the biggest...typing out all those names and addresses to send then to the addressograph people. But that work was certainly a pleasure. The campaign is coming along well and you comrades are doing a particularly fine job. It would certainly be a fine thing if you can go well over your quota. An extensive subscribers list ~~WAMI~~ will provide us with some good contacts next fall when we open up with our forums or study classes.

I have just reread the pile of material that you have been forwarding us and will take up some of the more important points.

Received the conference report. I understand that you intend to type out all the various reports. This would be very good if you had lots of time but I know that you haven't and so I do not think it is so necessary. There is one report however that I would like to get hold of. For sometime now we have been intending to commence a serious discussion on trade union problems. We could well commence such a discussion in the party via the Internal Bulletin with Lloyd's report and analysis of the problem. I wonder if you could type that out for us and then give Lloyd a chance to go over it and send it in as soon as possible

I wonder if you could give me more information on a recommendation that arose from Bill Whitney's report on organization...the recommendation calling for immediate reversion to small cellular form used while still in the CCF".

Re the question of pseudonyms that you made a few comments on in your last letter. I and several other comrades have adopted such names as Paul Kane not for reasons of security etc. The main reason and the sole one in my particular case is so that the paper doesn't appear with two and three articles with the same name under them. We have tried to personalize the paper and to build up figures in Canadian political life through the paper. I think you will agree that it would be an error to have two articles in the same paper with the same name under them. Far from adopting a policy of pseudonyms in so far as the paper is concerned we have bent over backwards to use genuine names and to popularize the names of members of the party. We took the liberty of using Vancouver comrades names on articles even when the article was very substantially revised. You cannot have an anonymous paper or an anonymous party..that is if you expect to go to the masses and build that party. Of course there are some comrades who cannot afford to be identified with the party or its press. This is unfortunate. They may have a job that would be endangered if their political affiliations were known and so forth. Comrades who are in shops that are organized should certainly use their own names and of course that is where we want to be.

This matter of pseudonyms plus the above cellular form have given some of the comrades of the P.C. an uncomfortable feeling that the

there is a tendency in the Vancouver branch to turn inwards and prepare for illegalization....to adopt conspiratorial methods etc. The N.C. has only discussed this matter informally as its information has been limited but it is of the opinion that if this is so it is a serious mistake. The only protection that our party has from illegalization is to turn its face outward even more, to fight against any attempt to restrict it to plunge deep into the labor movement and find a base and support there which would make it less vulnerable. If this tendency exists in the Vancouver branch I think it would be well to have a discussion on the matter in the branch. You will find some material on this matter in Trotsky's Defence of Marxism and Struggle for a Proletarian Party also The History of American Trotskyism.

That was a very fine piece of work that the Branch did in approaching the CCF SLP and others with regards to the Stalinist attack. Have there been any further developments. What is the situation with regards to the possibility of holding a mass ~~meeting~~ united front meeting protesting the attack, launching a campaign against Stalinism. It would give us an excellent opportunity of explaining the dangers of Stalinism and explaining our position as distinct from the red baiting of the CCF etc.

k

Would you take up the matter of a Trotsky memorial meeting with the executive. The date is August 20th. I am sure that you could hold a very successful meeting. Incidentally we have on hand a set of ~~records~~ the records of Trotsky's speech on the ~~founding~~ founding of the Fourth International. This is the speech that we printed in the issue of Labor Challenge announcing the founding of our party. It would be a regular drawing card...Trotsky Speaks. The Toronto branch is planning to use the records but we can be a little mobile on the date. As a matter of fact I think Toronto is holding ~~there~~ meeting a few days prior to the 20th. We could airmail the records.

Would you also take up the matter of the appointment of a comrade who will take upon himself the task of being the Vancouver correspondent for Labor Challenge. It should be a comrade with a good political orientation and with a certain amount of spare time or freedom from other work. Perhaps one of the student comrades. They would probably be the most facile writers. This would also be a good opportunity for political education. We need someone in Vancouver who can ~~take~~ take upon himself the job of keeping up with what is important news and who could send us at least one article a month of an important news character. We would also like him to take on an odd assignment of a more theoretical or ~~general~~ general character. I think this would go a long way towards solving the problem of keeping our paper a national and field paper as opposed to an office paper. Our present knowledge of what is news in B.C. is limited to what we read in the Pacific Tribune and the CCF News. We would keep in close touch with him via airmail and discuss assignments.

Can we get anything for this issue of the paper? The deadline is June 9th...only a few days away. We must have it in our hands by the morning of the 10th at the latest. Any developments around Bill 39?

Have the N.C. members had any discussion on the proposal that they should constitute themselves as the B.C. Organizing Committee? As of now I haven't been informed by any of the comrades just what their opinion of the proposal is.

There were a few other matters but I will take them up later as I want to make this coming mail all the best

Dear Lloyd;

Thanks for the 25 subs. Unfortunately we received them just too late for this issue of the paper. The deadline as ~~XXXXXX~~ we informed all campaign managers was June 9th. We had all the copy into the printer by the morning of the 10th and the most of it was already set up. The paper should have been off yesterday but the fellows on the stone are god-damn slow, I am not sure whether its all a game because we owe them so much dough or if it is because as they claim they are being rushed off their feet with work. We hope to get enough tonight to put out the West Coast bundles anyway. This issue is fairly heavy but a good one none theless. One thing we really lack is some on the spot material...trade union reports etc. These cannot be written from the office without a great deal of risk and could only be general and lacking the personal touch of a participant. I recently wrote Reg asking him to get the executive to appoint someone to be a regular Vancouver correspondent...possibly one of the student comrades who probably find very little difficulty in writing. If this can be arranged it would be a good idea for ~~XXX~~ you comrades who are busy in the unions to call them over some night and give them a story which they could write up and then let you go over before shipping it on to us.

Sorry that I have been so long in replying to your letter of April 1st which gave the story on your excellent fight for the sliding scale at the Wage Scale Conference. On the contrary I thought that the fight and the resulting vote was very encouraging. I hope you liked the story that we carried on it in the mid-April issue and the article we ran with it explaining How the Sliding Scale Would Operate.

I have just been trying to locate the resolution that you presented to the conference. I cannot seem to find it at the moment but I remember that at the time I read it I thought that it was a very good resolution except perhaps for possibly one small thing. If I remember correctly the resolution itself did not have anything in it that met the stupid and unprincipled arguments that the Stalinists did raise against it and which we could have expected them to raise against it. I think it is a good idea if possible to include in a resolution that frames a demand a few remarks or so, phrase it that it answers some of the criticism that we can expect thus you manage to cut some of the ground in advance from under our opponents.

We found here in Toronto that there was a tendency on the part of one or two comrades to counterpose ~~XXXX~~ the need for a new wage drive, new wage increases, to the sliding scale. There seemed to be a feeling that the sliding scale was some sort of substitute to new wage increases ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and not an additional demand. We subsequently had a very good educational on the matter ~~XXXX~~ and straightened it up. After the discussions I thought it would be a good idea to send out a model resolution on the ~~XXXXXX~~ sliding scale as a sort of guide. The Toronto comrades took the model resolution into their shops and distributed copies of it around to the best elements. I sent a bunch to Reg. Did you see them ~~XXXXXXXX~~. I know we have not been saying much in the last few issues on the sliding scale but we have been pressed for space. Hope to have something in the next issue of the paper.

of the comrades in a small shop managed to put over the sliding scale demand and the negotiating committee is trying to get it in the new contract at the moment

Thanks for the clippings on the IWA situation. We were not able to make any particular use of them except informational as there was not enough to write a worthwhile article and as I said before I am afraid of these arm chair-office articles.

There is no doubt that the trade union leadership is responsible for the tendency to accept crumbs this year through their failure to combat the bosses arguments that wage increases only result in price increases, their capitulation before the ~~REACTIVE~~ anti-red drive etc. Here of course the trade union bureaucracy is only running true to form but this time the boss propaganda has taken a bit of toll in the ranks of the more backward and conservative workers and caused considerable confusion. There certainly ~~WAS~~ is no intention on the part of the trade union leaders to support a wage drive or be pushed into one. They are doing everything to throw dust and side track any tendency for one on the part of the rank and file. In Quebec they are carrying on the pretense of an organizing campaign and nationally as you know they are commencing with a high priced publicity ~~WAS~~ campaign to roll back the prices. ~~KING KENNEDY AND OTHERS~~

W

We certainly cannot oppose the submission of Stuart Enterprises offer to ballot of the membership....that is after we had been ~~REJECTED~~ ~~REJECTED~~ ~~REJECTED~~ unable to get the top negotiating committee to turn thumbs down on it or take it to the membership and urge them to reject it. Did we have anyone on the negotiating committee or whatever body it was that recommended the ballot? If so I am of the opinion that we would have to argue against acceptance of the offer and oppose the idea of a ballot with the idea of a report from the committee and a recommendation of rejection. After all when the committee decided to hold a ballot on the offer it can only ~~WAS~~ mean to the rank and file that the leadership favours acceptance.

While we cannot oppose the ballot at this stage, ~~REJECTED~~ ~~REJECTED~~ ~~REJECTED~~ we must certainly vote against acceptance of the offer and campaign for its rejection in the shops. With this pitiful increase the union does not even hold its own let alone improve its position. This is a marvellous opportunity to point out what the sliding scale would have done if it had been in the contract last year. At Massey Harris here we campaigned against acceptance of the 8 to 13 cent offer and damn near swung the meeting of about 2000 workers. If I recall correctly the vote was about 44 per cent for rejection ~~WAS~~. The Stalinists control the top bodies of the union and both they and the CCF were for ~~ACCEPTANCE~~. There is no doubt that this has increased our prestige in the union ~~REJECTED~~ amongst the best elements as the most far seeing and most militant unionists.

I understand that you gave the trade union report at the Conference last month. I wrote Reg and asked him to see if you still had the material for the report and if it would be possible to have it typed out ~~REJECTED~~. I think that it would be good to include it in the Internal bulletin that we are preparing. We certainly could profit by a discussion on Canadian trade union problems and this would start the ball rolling. Could Muriel type it for you.

I understand that Muriel has a tough job on her hands with young Tommy. Give them both my regards and let's hope for a rapid improvement.

By the way what do you think of the P.C. recommendation on the Organizational Committee. There were some other matters raised in the P.C. minutes that we would like to hear from you on as soon as possible. (end)

June 16 1947)

(28)

Dear Comrade White;

I am enclosing receipts for the money that you have just forwarded... one done up fancy just in case you are required to hand one over to the union's treasurer. You will also find a couple of expired subs in the envelope. These fellows have been sent an expiration notice just a few days ago. Thanks for the subs. I suppose you have noticed in the campaign column the excellent work the Vancouver comrades are doing in this drive. If we keep up at this pace we are bound to make our objective and with an extra push we should be able to go well over it.

I wonder if you could give us a little more information on this bulletin that you have been getting out. It sounds like an excellent idea. Is it for internal circulation in the union? Do you put it out or does the educational committee, etc.? Could you send us a couple. I am sure the Vancouver comrades would like to see it also.

I mailed a few days ago the copy you ordered of Lenin's Testament and a copy of Rosa Luxemburg's Reform or Revolution which as far as we know is the only work available in English by her. I happen to have another book of hers in my library but it has been long out of print. I never heard of the Selected Writings to which you refer. Do you know the publisher or do you have any information that would be of use? We would certainly like to obtain some copies if it is available. I will be sending you that copy of Black Jacobins in a few days time.

Warmest regards,

Ross Dowson

June 23 1947

Dear Ellaline;

I was very much surprised to see that you did not receive the bundles until the 19th. They left Toronto on the afternoon of the 13th. I am sorry that we cannot ship you the requested 100 or 200 more copies. We are really scraping the barrel down here, as a matter of fact we may have to miss an issue in the next month or so in order to see us into the fall when we can launch the financial drive. I hope we don't have to however. So we have been trying to save every nickel possible. One of the few economy measures left is the cutting down of our press run to the very bone. The press run of the last issue was only sufficient to cover the regular bundles and the subscribers. We were not even able to send subscribers that were obtained in the following week a copy of the last issue and so we are commencing their sub with the next issue. I think there are only two copies of the last issue in the office besides the copies we put away for binding purposes. The Toronto branch is using the last of 500 copies they bought of the June issue for their door to door work.

There were two hundred copies of the mid-May issue in the office when I received your note. They had been ~~sent to you~~ bought by Toronto but the branch was unable to use them at a previously planned distribution. I have taken the liberty of confiscating them and shipping them on to you. I think they are still quite useful as very few of our articles are particularly dated. You should receive them in another day or so.

Now about the issue which we are just taking to press....I see you would like about 500 copies. You really have mean a spot..Of course I would like to say yes here are 1000 or 2000 as many as you can put to use but I am afraid we are compelled to say no as our printing account is as high as we can permit it to go without being out entirely. Toronto's sustaining upon which the party is actually functioning is already dropping due to the summer and the lack of opportunities to raise funds. I am afraid that bundles will henceforth all have to be cash on the line. Unfortunately even the revolutionary movement is subject to the laws of capitalist economics.

We are having to increase the press run in order to cover the many new subscribers that Vancouver and other points are sending in so it may just be possible that we would have a few over...if we have I will send them on. At any rate after the campaign it appears as if we will have to put all bundles on a strict cash basis as was decided about 6 months ago by the P.C.

We received a couple of subs from a D. McCormack of Lynn Creek the other day. They were written out on the sub blank torn from two copies of the paper so I assume you must be in close contact with him. I know that he is practically in Vancouver but we intend to list him in VAN B.C. to give the Prince Rupert comrades a hand.

In your last batch there was a sub for a R. Ramsay 1044 Roosevelt Avenue. Roosevelts had always prior to this been Crescents. Would you

12
let me know if this should be Crescent also?

After I had finished writing my last letter to you I checked through our subscribers lists to find Comrade Salloun's address and I was suprised to see that he has no sub. On checking through further I noticed that we do not have subs for any of the Vancouver comrades on file. As you know Faulkner is the only person in Vancouver besides yourself that receives a bundle. This means that none of our comrades get a copy of the paper unless they meet your bundle at a distribution or until they attend a branch meeting which may be a full week away from the arrival of the paper. Absentees or comparitively inactive comrades must miss issue after issue. All of our own people of course must read our paper from cover to cover and be absolutely familiar with it as it gives the line and orientation of the ~~XXXXX~~ party. Inthink it would be a good idea to raise the matter at the next executive or branch meeting and obtain a one year sub from every single comrade in the party. Just another idea in line with this. The Toronto branch has an item Labor Challenge on the branch agenda once a month. At that time we have a discussion on the paper, the line of the articles etc. We clarify misunderstandings and the editorial board has received some very worthwhile criticisms and suggestions. It would be a good idea if Vancouver did likewise and Don could let us know of any criticisms and suggestions. By the way Comrade Borland did an excellent job on his first assignment. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ I gather from Paddy that Angus in someway disagreed with the article in the mid-May issue on Immigration. At this point on the agenda we could have a fruitful discussion on the matter.

The Vancouver branch is certainly doing an inspiring job in the drive. I see that we are coming in contact with some very good elements in the process. I am sure that the political development of the comrades is undergoing a forced march through the sub work, meeting raw workers, explaining our ideas and defending them...it is a good political education and experience particularly for our student comrades. Well, stop taking subs when you get to 1000.

Warmest regards

Ross

Will you turn one of the enclased receipts over to Comrade Salloun with many thanks

June 27 1947

Bullock
Dear Egg;

We have not yet received a reply to the many questions that I raised in a letter that we sent off on June 4. I am wondering if by accident when you were involved in some important work that you may have misplaced some material that you had intended to ship on. If this is not so would you try to take up some of the details in this and the last letter and forward us some of the branch minutes.

There was an ad in the CCF News of a few weeks ago which stated that the Stanley Park Club was holding a forum with the Workers Revolutionary Party on some question of program. who is this...us...McKean? If it was the RWP how did we make out?

I ~~have~~ received a letter from Lloyd the other day in which he mentions that I will be receiving a report from the organizational committee very shortly. He goes on to state that all of you "still hold that a district is necessary in B.C. as soon as we set up the branches in various areas that we anticipate". I hope that we did not leave the impression in some of the comrades minds that the P.C. is opposed to a District body on principle...~~we~~ we are in complete agreement with Lloyd that this is an objective of the party but that since we have no other branches in B.C. that at this time there is no basis for a District Committee. We are confident that through such splendid work as the branch is doing on the sub-drive that this objective will be achieved in the not too far ~~future~~ future.

There is a matter that the P.C. would like you to take up as soon as possible with the Organizational Committee. ~~Some time ago the comrades inquired about the Trotsky School. New York has informed us that they are unable to hold the school this year much to their regret however the American party is setting aside one week at the summer camp at Little Pleasant Lake Michigan for a special gathering of "party organizers, N.C. members, and heads of National Office departments". During the week August 17-23rd the ~~week~~ will be closed to all other but the above. This Organizers Institute's prime purpose is to deepen and extend the SWP's analysis of the many organizational problems confronting them in the process of growing from a propaganda circle to a party of action. We have not yet received the agenda and all the details. We have asked the SWP to permit us to send a few comrades to the institute as there is no question we could learn a lot there. They have set no ~~limitation~~ numbers but the P.C. is of the opinion that the RWP can not ask to send more than four or five comrades. The P.C. is recommending that Jean go from Montreal, that V. Olsen go from Toronto, that myself and Ruth go from the National Office and that someone should make every attempt to go there from the Vancouver branch. We are of the opinion that it should be one of the N.C. members resident in Vancouver or at least some comrade that is playing a leading role in the branch and who has been in the party for some period. As you can see the institute is going to be of a very internal character, extremely critical and soul-searching and for that reason we are of the opinion that it should not be an new and inexperienced comrade even though this comrade is very active etc.~~

In my own opinion one of the N.C. members should make every attempt to go. If however this is not ~~XXXX~~ humanly possible then the matter of some other comrades such as Borland etc should be considered. The person going could probably make transportation arrangements with the Seattle or Tacoma comrades who will no doubt be going by car. Unfortunately the national office is in no position to give any financial aid and the comrade going will have to look after this matter himself. The week at camp is \$25.00. If transportation could not be obtained through the U.S. comrades a younger comrade could hitch-hike or ride the rods if time is no big factor involved. We sincerely hope that someone will be able to get down to the camp. As time is short for a comrade to make arrangements it will be necessary to get after this right away.

I am enclosing the letter from Allen McLean which you will note we put to good use. I see he signs his name Yours in Trotsky ~~XXX~~ seems to be one of us but post scripts as offering his services merely as a CCFer who is interested in the different isms. A few years ago I am sure the international could have made good use of his services but I understand that contacts have been pretty well picked up again. Would you thank him for the offer anyway. I am also enclosing a clipping from the Toronto Star which should be of interest to all the comrades.

Would you thank Ruth for her letter and the appended note on the social. We were not sure whether she wanted the item to be reported in the paper or not. It is unfortunate that we ~~XXXXXX~~ were not informed more definitely before and we could have run an ad in the paper ~~XX~~ announcing the social. Would you always tell Don to send us any notices of this sort. Now that we are getting a fairly good circulation in Vancouver I think it would be a good idea to give us the copy for any affairs you are running. I think that announcements are much better than ~~XXXX~~ reports of the affair after it is over. Do you want the announcements of the prize winners run off in the next issue anyway? I suppose you noticed how much copy we crowded in the latest issue. We got two extra galleys of copy. We had to as a lot of developments had been taking place upon which we had said no word.

Your article on the B.C. Federation of Labor arrived too late ~~XXI~~. At anyrate even if it had arrived a day previously and had made the dead line I am afraid we could not have used it. We already had two articles on Vancouver developments ~~XXXXXX~~...Laundry dispute, Veteran's rent strike...and I had already sent up to the printer an editorial which touched on ~~XXXXXX~~ the B.C. Federation convention. It never rains but it pours. I am sorry because I know the time you must have spent on it and how busy you are. But now that we have a regular and really functioning correspondent in Comrade Borland I think we will be able to avoid this in the future. If you have anything after this or if any other comrade has any material he thinks should go in he should immediately get in touch with Borland. We will already have informed him of the last possible dead line, what we have room for, what we think is news and won't unbalance the paper. I am sure if this is done there will be no more mix-ups etc. and everything will run smooth.

Ruth Benson has asked me to remind you that when we say four pages we mean pages of 200 words. If ~~XXXXXX~~ the copy is typed on letter size paper it should be typed triple space. We set our margins at 20 and 60 triple spaced, letter size gives you 20 lines to a page

I myself would like to make a few comments as to the line of the Confederation article. I think the basic line of the article is correct...as a matter of fact it is substantially the same as the editorial that we ran in the paper...that is that the trade union bureaucrats the LPP and the CCF wanted to use the whole protest that was developing solely for electoral purposes and opposed any immediate struggle for action against the Bill now. Of course when the ~~XXXX~~ Nanaimo affair developed it was taken out of their hands. But there is another portion of the article dealing with the strategy of the LPP at the convention which is not doubt absolutely correct *in its* but which in my opinion has bad implications. I think that sometime ago in Vancouver there developed some differences on the question of whether we in the trade union movement should fight or support endorsement of CCF candidates in elections or if the unions themselves tend to put up candidates should we support this move. I never did hear just what the outcome of this was. It is an extremely important issue and we ~~must~~ come to some conclusions on the matter as soon as possible.

True the CCF has been endorsed by the CCL. It has already a considerable number of members in the house and provincial bodies and is more or less recognized by the Canadian working class as the labor party. ~~XX~~ We have supported the CCF in the past not because we are in agreement with its program but we recognize it as a progressive ~~stage~~ ^{force} in the development of the workers to break away from the boss parties. We had no difficulty in taking the position of critical support of the CCF in the past federal election ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ where we were unable to run candidates (for the LPP ran as the right bower of the Liberal Party and opposed independent working class political action. It was ~~because~~ for the latter reason that we did not ~~give~~ critical support to the LPP.

In Europe today the basic slogan of our parties is "For a worker's government..The CP - SP to power". "Break the Coalition" etc wherever there was a coalition. We know that ~~the~~ the Stalinist movement is the most deadly enemy of the proletarian revolution and the most difficult one to fight but we called for the CP&SP to power. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ This means that in places where we were unable to run our own candidates we gave critical support to the Stalinist parties. The slogan CP-SP to power of course is one of the most powerful weapons against Stalinism as this party has no ~~XXXXXX~~ intention of ~~XXXXXX~~ breaking its coalition with the bourgeoisie. This demand exposes the CP as not being a revolutionary party but ~~XXXXXXXX~~ a ~~counter-revolutionary~~ agency of the counter-revolutionary Kremlin bureaucracy. and a tool of the bourgeoisie.

Implicit in your article is that the workers must ~~XXXX~~ endorse the CCF only as a political weapon and that any attempt of the unions themselves to enter candidates in elections must go through this channel. That In this case the B.C. Federation's move is false and only a dirty ~~XXXX~~ maneuver of the Stalinists. This may be so, that is that the whole move is a Stalinist maneuver but it seems to me that this doesn't go far deep enough in analysis ~~XX~~.

The CCF has very few roots in the trade union movement. The basis of trade union affiliation is such that it exposes the fact that the CCF leadership only wants T.U. votes and doesn't wish to be tied to a trade union base. It has by no means been decided in Canada as it has in England with the Labor Party, that the trade unions will move over into the support of the CCF. Even though it seems that they likely will. But where unions ~~XXX~~ run candidates of their own, with their program and responsible to them this is in my opinion a progressive move and we must support such a development.

If such a candidate ran against the CCF we would support him, and not the CCF. Of course we would not support candidates ~~because~~ because they may be endorsed by the trade unions...as for instance Mayor Saunders here in Toronto. He was endorsed by the AFL Council but we ran Murray against him.

I see that it is after five o'clock ~~now~~ and we have to wrap the rest of the papers (Toronto) tonight so I will try to bring this to a close temporarily. Well it is my opinion that we would support such a move as developed in the Convention...the setting up of a PAC and any move of the unions to run candidates themselves even if such a move was promoted by the Stalinists and no matter what the reasons might be. Suppose the Stalinist made the greatest gain through this as we would have little influence to have our comrades run as the trade union candidate. I do not see that this is the ~~best~~ issue. Trade union candidates would be under the control of the trade unions and we would fight for this control and for correct policies. If a Stalinist was put up by the union we would give him our support but fought to force him to carry out a correct policy.... ~~well~~

I do not know what you think of this argumentation but the matter is of grave importance and we should open a discussion on it in the party. If you disagree with it how about writing up your position as soon as possible for the internal bulletin. We are getting a bulletin ready right now and it would be swell if you could make it. Or if there is some other comrade who disagrees with my opinion perhaps he could open the discussion with a document on the matter.

Incidentally Paddy has recently received a letter from Angus in which he stated that he disagreed with the line as developed by an article signed R. Norton on immigration. He gave no details but it is very important that matters like this be clarified in the party. Would you get in touch with him as soon as possible and have a talk with him. Perhaps we could have a document on this matter for the coming bulletin if it cannot be straightened up to his satisfaction.

We will be dropping Ruth a line on her ~~article~~ ^{comments} of the Mary Wood article on the buyer's strike. No I guess I can say a few words now. I will enclose it with this letter.

Let's hear from you as soon as possible.

Comradely

Ross

July 15 1947

Dear Lloyd;

Thanks for your letter of a few weeks ago. The comrades have certainly done a very fine job in the sub drive. As of today your total stands at 316 and I understand that you have the results of two more rallies coming in. Comrade Grey has done an exemplary job in his plant...and this is certainly where we want the subs so that the comrades can follow up on the work of the paper, this plant has become an extremely important place for our paper now. I wonder if you would keep this comrade on the bit to send us in any material dealing with questions that arise in the plant and the union local. This will make the paper more vital to these workers and certainly bring them closer to Grey in his trade union work. This should be a long step in our building a fraction in that plant.

You will be glad to know that we have already gone over the national objective by some 20 Odd subs and there are no doubt 40 or 60 more to come in. This campaign marks an important milestone in the struggle to build the party. It has been an excellent political education and experience for our comrades and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ will pay off in many new contacts for this fall's activities.

It is rather unfortunate that everyone of the comrades was not actively involved in the campaign. We seem to have had a higher per centage of comrade on the job here in Toronto but we also had our dead heads. I would say that there were only 11 comrades in Toronto who really tried to do a job on the project. ~~XXXX~~ out of a total of 24 comrades. Strange to say for the most part they were the old timers who lagged behind. These same eleven comrades are the ones who carry the branch in almost every phase of its activities. If we took a formalistic point of view I think you might say that these 11 comrades are the only Bolsheviks, the rest being in reality only sympathizers. But I think this would be a false thing to do. No star is lost. These comrades may not be able to meet the type of demands that our party now in its pioneer stage demands of them however there are other types of work which we must ~~XX~~ try to give them. (Internal party administration, contact work ~~oXX~~ with the old person we will pick up at large, and so forth) This type of work will become more extensive as the party expands. We will have to try to utilize everyone we can ~~XXX~~ no matter what their talents and take from them whatever we can get. Some of these comrades will possibly never be active in any phase of work, we will be ~~XX~~ unable to assimilate them, however in some cases we might be in for a surprise. I know we were, here, back in 1939 when the war broke out.

When we get a headquarters in Vancouver and have more party life I am sure even people like the old MacDonnells will be valuable for social work European relief collections and parcelling and so forth. I think we should purposely try to give these people some little tasks even if we know they will not be done as well as you or Tom or the new young comrades could do them. I know there is a tendency for these better comrades to take upon themselves all the work. We must try to stop this and to try to encourage the other to work by giving them easy jobs, helping them with them and so forth.

On the matter of finances and the possibilities of Vancouver. The fact that ~~we~~ have 20 members at Vancouver and 20 at Toronto does not automatically mean that both branches are capable of contributing the same amount of money. Perhaps one branch may have more than its fair share of housewives students, comrades in financial difficulties and so forth but I do not think that this could possibly explain the terrific gap between the payments from these two branches which are roughly the same strength in numbers. As a matter of fact without going into the details my impression is that the composition as regards to housewives, students, comrades who claim heavy financial responsibilities etc is roughly the same.

Our branch in Toronto is much older than our branch in Vancouver---that is as a strict party, fourth internationalist branch. I think that has a little to do with it. My own experiences are that comrades have to be educated to their financial responsibilities to the party, what it is necessary to give and so forth. Before we really put a drive on in the Toronto branch had were able to hold up some inspiring examples of sacrifice we were ~~able~~ unable to raise even as much as you do now. Comrades are not used to financial sacrifices, they are used to CCF practices or LPP practices of the past ten years. As a matter of fact we had to very carefully stage our first drive to get real pledges from the uneducated comrades. Everyone in the party knows pretty well how much each other person makes. We had comrades who were really tied to the party ~~and they would not~~ volunteer the first pledges. When John Boe made a 10 dollar a month pledge and everyone knew he made ~~XX~~ thirty a week and had a wife and kid to support they realized what was expected of them and the best comrades rally to the party. We still have comrades who do not contribute as much as they should but we have fewer and fewer of them. ~~These comrades~~ in the branch ~~should be ashamed~~ to make less than a dollar or so a month pledge including the student comrades who work on Saturday's etc. I am sure that the Vancouver branch will improve along this line to match the other splendid work it is doing. We will have a chance to see when we start the financial drive in September.

We were glad to see that the comrades have accepted the idea of a B.C. organizational committee. I hope you did not misunderstand the point of view of the P.C. It is in complete agreement with the setting up of a district just as soon as we are able to get the necessary branches together in the area. I am sure that is not so far off.

Thanks for the article that you sent in for this issue of the paper. Unfortunately we were not really able to do it full justice. Reg sent in a very fine article on Bill White and Don sent in one on Nanaimo. We have such a small paper that we were unable to devote an article to all three of them and it is our opinion since the IWA deals with a settlement and Nanaimo deals with a strike and political struggle and our own comrade is involved in the Jim Crow case that your would have to be the one that suffers. We would have held it over if we were able to publish an August issue but since we are unable to do so it had to go in this issue in some form. You will find it in trade union notes...cut in half anyway but I think it was the best that we could do with it.

We had originally intended to weave in the material that you enclosed in your 23rd June letter about Local 1-357 leadership and possibly the civic Employees Union but of course we could not. We are thinking of using this material for a letter to the editor in the mid-august issue.

(ends)

July 23 1947

To the Vancouver Branch;

Dear Comrades;

We have received your request that the P.C. reconsider the decision to skip publication of the August issue of Labor Challenge.

We have felt it necessary to reply at once and explain the situation further as it is quite definite that the August issue of the paper will not appear.

The decision to skip the August issue was entirely out of the hands of the Political Committee. It has been out of their hands for sometime. The P.C. has very patiently attempted to bring to the attention of all branches and members at large and in particular the Vancouver branch, the extreme financial crisis that has confronted the party for the past five months. It did so in a series of letters addressed to all branches and two special appeals addressed to the Vancouver branch executive dated March 11 and May 5th.

The P.C. letter of May 5th addressed to the Vancouver branch executive stated; "The Vancouver contributions to the maintenance of our party and its press are obviously completely out of proportion with its size and influence regardless of the circumstances of various individual members. It must be stated frankly...the maintenance of Labor Challenge and the National Office on its present status depends almost entirely on the Vancouver branch. It is necessary for the Vancouver branch to take its share of the financial burden of the party at once."

The May contribution from Vancouver was \$8.35. Although it rose substantially in June it was insufficient to make any fundamental change in the financial situation of the party.

The funds are just not available for the publication and mailing of the August issue. They will be available for the mid-August issue which is only a short way off ~~ONLY~~ solely on the basis of the savings from non-publication of the August issue. They will be available for subsequent issues on the basis of increased contributions from the party membership and the fact that the yearly financial drive will commence on September 1st.

The August issue of Labor Challenge will not appear. The July and mid-July issues appeared because one of comrades floated a substantial personal loan on behalf of the party. This was thought necessary as we were in the midst of a sub campaign.

The comrades will note that the Mid-July issue was published as Mid-July--August. The reason given for the amalgamation of these two issues to our readers is that our print shop closed down for the holidays. (While this is true, we could have printed the paper in another shop had funds been available). We see no reason whatsoever why comrades "who sold large numbers of subs on the job will be criticized."

Once again: The decision to skip the August issue was not made by the Political Committee. It was forced upon it. The decision was made by all comrades who are not carrying their full share of the party's financial burden.

The Political Committee will consider the Vancouver branch request that it should submit a financial statement of expenditures to it at its next meeting.

Fraternally,

R. Dowson for the P.C.

July 31, 1947

Bullet
Dear Reg;

Unfortunately I haven't your last letter at hand. I believe Murray must have taken it back to Montreal with him amongst other papers. I have written him to see if this is so. However there are several details I want to take up and any that slip my mind we can pick up later.

How did you make out with your trip up the coast of the Island? Did you have a recent mailing list of the ~~paper~~ subscribers? No doubt Byron Johnson was a big help. We just missed you by a week or so with the complete list of B.C. subscribers. I have just mailed to your address the listing of all current subs and all expirations since no 32 issue. I have packaged them up into 4 groups. I sent them all onto you as I thought you would like to take a look through them. As soon as you have would you send them onto the various comrades who live in the immediate district of the subs. There is a package for Byron, Prince Rupert, Harry Noakes, and a package of subs from around the Vancouver area and localities that are not near any of the other three comrades. I have told them that you will be sending the lists on as the list is very good to help the comrades in the F.I. sub campaign. If you would like one for the Organizational Committee just say the word and we will try to get one away to you in the next week or so. Do you think that it would be worth while preparing a report for the bulletin? It would of course be valuable to have one for the information of the F.C. and possibly the I.S.

By the way did any of the comrades notice an article on the back page of the B.C. CCF News. ~~XXXXXX~~ July 17 issue. It reports that the Edmonds CCYM Club had a meeting with other clubs in attendance. The pres. of the club Ray McGready and a Daug Cameron attacked the CCF for "appeasement and waiting". Have we any contact with these fellows. I am sure that the younger comrades such as Borland could do a good job on these CCYMers if they have the potentialities that the report suggests.

While you were away on your trip the P.C. had a meeting and discussed the branch and some N.C. members' appeal to the P.C. to reconsider the "decision" to not publish the August issue of the paper. This letter was forwarded to Tom as we were not sure that you would be back in town for the next meeting of the branch and of course the explanation could not wait. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I hope you received your article on the B.C. Federation convention. We have received a lengthy letter from Angus, one from Tom and also one from Lloyd. After what the comrades have to say about the editorial on the Nanaimo strikers I have reread it. I myself do not understand how any one can get the implication that the editorial endorses the 17 man committee. As a matter of fact it was written only to endorse the Nanaimo strike action and expose the do nothingness of both the CCF and the 17 man committee. It endorsed a move to take political action only as such and said nothing about its direction in my opinion. Generally the editorial board follows a policy of not printing anything that to its mind even suggests any change of policy or deals with anything that we have not clearly already taken a position on. As a matter of fact that was the

reason for my letter to you on the article ...in my opinion your article suggests a new line on political action..that we oppose political action that takes any other channel than the CCF. Paddy is out of town just now on holiday and will be returning on the 5th of August. We will have a P.C. meeting as soon as he returns and take up all the questions raised by the comrades. To my mind the whole discussion raises the entire perspective of the Canadian party and its relationship to the CCF. The next internal bulletin should open a discussion on the matter.

I forgot to mention that we sent a letter to Muriel. I believe I sent you a copy for your information. As yet we have received no reply. I certainly hope that Muriel does send one in for it is certainly one hell of an attitude for a N.C. member. I hope that it does not effect the discipline in the branch. Certainly terrible conduct for a person who is elected to the leading body of the party. I wonder if one of the N.C. members would talk to her and see if they can urge her to drop us a line regardless of her conclusions?

I suppose I should send this information to Ellaline but if you would give it to her it would save writing an extra note. A comrade ~~ME~~ in the Toronto branch who used to live in Vancouver, Albin Hokanson tells us that there is a newsstand run by a John Green at 205 Carroll which he thinks would be willing to handle the paper. I understand they already handle the Stalinist and CCF press.

We were all pleased to see that it was our party that had arranged the debate with the Stanley Park club and that the comrades had done such a good job. Too bad that one of the comrades did not cover the meeting for the paper. It would have made an extremely valuable article and perhaps made it easier for us to arrange such debates in other places since there was this precedent. I suppose it is too late now to make a good job on it for the paper.

I am shipping in the next day or so the recordings of Trotsky's speech for your meeting on the 20th. I have held them up as I wanted to to have a chance to time them so we know just how to space out our meeting ~~and then we can have a very good meeting~~. We have only just got the gramophone repaired. Our meeting will take place on the 28th so if they are expressed the very next day after your meeting everything should be alright. We will have ads out on the recordings so I suppose it is hardly necessary to stress--HANDLE WITH CARE. This is the only set in Canada and I do not think there are any more available. I am looking forward to hear them myself when we time them. We have very decisively refused to play them up until now despite all the comrades Appeals. They are going to have to last us a long long time. I am sure they will make your meeting a real success. Keep the wrapping material for reshipment.

I see from the minutes that there was strong exception taken to the article on immigration. I think when such a situation arises in a branch that contains one third of our membership that we should certainly try to straighten it up through the internal bulletin...particularly when it involves an N.C. member. Angus has not said anything about it in correspondence with the P.C. ~~and we can have a very good meeting~~ I wonder if you would try to find time to let us know what the situation is. If Angus or no one else wishes to write on the subject perhaps someone here might consider the problems involved of such importance to warrant them writing an article.

What is new on Bill Whites ~~CAME~~ run-in with the local hotel. That was a fine story you sent in. Was there much interest aroused by the case that might enable us to launch a boycott and demonstration or has it all died a natural death?

I Wonder if there would be any boats sailing for Indonesia from the port of Vancouver.? Is there some common pool where all ships list their destinations where we could check. It is quite probable that there will be Canadian or Panama registered boats taking supplies over to the Dutch army or in a few weeks bringing in the loot from the re-seized plantations. This would provide us with an excellent opportunity to aid the Indonesian workers..leaflets picketline, awaken the seamen to the issues involved and attempt to get them to desert ship. I always feel embarrassed about raising such obvious matters to the comrades but sometimes persons on the spot tend to overlook the odd opportunity.

Has Lloyd had a chance to get to work on the T.U. material. I see that both he and B(you) were asked to present a trade union thesis and Canadian perspective at the branch meeting prior to the North Pole Conference.

If I am not mistaken all the other matters are to be taken up with the Political Committee.

Warmest regards

Ross Bowson

August 11 1947

Dear Reg;

We received your letter, enclosed minutes and document this morning. I haven't had a chance as yet to digest all the material as we are just putting the paper to bed but I am dropping you this note along with this circular letter that has to go now anyway to take up a couple of pressing matters.

1---those recordings of Trotsky's speech. I see that you have been forced to hold your meeting on the 24th. That is only a matter of 4 days from our meeting on the 28th and so it raises the matter of the fastest possible return of the records. As you can readily understand we would be in one hell of a spot if by any chance we did not come across with Trotsky's speech and the audience had only myself to listen to.

As there was lots of time we mailed you the records by parcel post. They left here on August 5th and should be there by now. It will be necessary however to return them via AIRMAIL and for safety's sake to send them off the very night of the meeting, as soon as it is over. If by any chance anything should happen to them while we immediately as it is possible we might be able to replace them through New York although I am extremely doubtful about it. After I had shipped them off I had a few qualms about their safety. Perhaps they are not packed any too well for on-the-end bumps. The ad is in this issue of the paper. I am sure that you will have a terrific meeting.

2...I think you are absolutely right about the need for a regular bulletin and believe me we will try our best to put one out. Of course one of the big difficulty is having time to prepare the material for it. As you know we have a very small staff on the paper and our Toronto branch as with the party generally is largely inexperienced and we are compelled ~~now~~ to spend a lot of time working in the day to day tasks of the branch. If you send in material I think that we will be able to get it out alright. The document that we received today...do you want it in the bulletin and under your name? Tell Tom, Angus, Lloyd, as I expressed in a previous letter, that I myself do not think their letters to the P.C. so suitable for a internal bulletin. However if they want them to go in would they give us instructions to do so. I and Ruth are planning to get away to the Organizer's institute this coming week but when we get back and send the September issue on its way we will do our best to get the bulletin out. Sorry to hear that no one ~~will~~ from Vancouver will be able to make the camp

Will write at length shortly

comradely & in haste

Ross

Ruth (Benson, Sup'er in Toronto?)

150

Dealt with by Ed C. the

Recommendation
in minutes

Sept 3. 1947

Dear Reg;

Just a line for now....I will be writing more fully tomorrow or the next day.

I do not know whether any of the comrades noticed an editorial that appeared in the August 7th issue of CCF News on "The 'tragedy of Palestine'. It is actually an anti-semitic editorial. I am enclosing some mimeographed copies of it. We distributed this at the Ontario CCYM Convention last week enclosed in the mid-August issue of L.C. which contained the CCF in Sask article and our editorial on Palestine.

The Toronto comrades intend to get a cut made of this editorial as it appeared in the CCF News, write an article around it, call a meeting to explain our ~~position~~ position on the Jewish question and Palestine. publish it all in a leaflet in the needle trades area. Many of the needle trade unions are CCF affiliates. This will be a powerful exposure of the CCF and we believe create considerable interest in our party's position. We have not yet discussed the line of the material that we intend to write around the cut of the CCF News editorial but we will no doubt point out the anti-semitic character of the edit, expose its roots (CCF support of the BLP leadership) expose Zionism and ~~and~~ ~~raise~~ raise the demand to open the doors of Canada to the Jews and hold out the socialist solution. We will be getting to work on it right away.

Now I was wondering just what the Vancouver branch thinks of trying to hold a meeting on the same question and if it would like us to run off an extra few thousand copies of the leaflet for its use. We would leave everything on the leaflet in the extra press run but the time and place of the meeting. We could ship them out express so that you would have them in four days. We have not yet arranged for the hall for our meeting nor have we prepared the leaflet but we will soon have that underway. If the branch desires to hold such a meeting and wanted to distribute such a leaflet they would save considerable trouble and expense if we increased our press run.

the decision would you take this up at the next branch meeting and let us know as soon as possible, ~~the decision~~. I am rushing this off in the hope that we connect with this weeks meeting.

comradely

Ross

By the way could you get us a good clean copy of the issue for the engraver... ~~the issue~~ ~~become~~ become badly mangled... send it air mail

Aug 7 CCF News

We are reproducing below an editorial that appeared in the Aug. 7, 1947 issue of the British Columbia CCF NEWS.

Read it carefully. We reproduced it precisely as it appeared in the CCF NEWS... with no comments, no deletions or additions:

THE TRAGEDY IN PALESTINE

Anti-Semitic riots in Liverpool mark the latest development in the Palestine tragedy and to the spectator are a more disturbing development than the hangings and counter-hangings in the Holy Land. The one country in the world in which Jews have been given an equal break, where they have been free to reach the highest social and political positions without question, has now become infected with the disease which has poisoned life for Jews in most other parts of the world.

The blame for this must rest squarely on the shoulders of the Jews themselves. When every allowance has been made for the psychological condition of the survivors from Hitler's Europe, the fact remains that the Jews by following their present insane policies are alienating every sympathy throughout the world.

It is time they woke up to the idiocy of pretending that a barren strip of land from which a few of their ancestors came a thousand years ago, holds the key to all their problems. Their very claim to Palestine is shaky to the point of being ridiculous. If every racial group which has been chased out of its ancestral territory in the last thousand years were to demand today the right to go back, the population of the world would soon be all on the move.

Nor does Palestine offer an economic solution for the Jews of Europe even if it were turned over to them. It lacks the necessary resources and the necessary area. Palestine is, in fact, nothing more than an emotional outlet for the Jews and they will pay a bitter price for indulging in this emotional jag if in the process they exasperate their sympathizers throughout the world.

Much of the trouble has been the result of the British Government's failure to realize that they are dealing with psychopathic cases who are not susceptible to reason and who thrive on martyrdom. They might have been better advised to have allowed the influx of Jews into Palestine to take place. The resulting violence and disillusionment would have cleared the rumour of emotional strong drink from the Jew's heads in a way that no rational approach could do.

American Zionists who have smarted under the mean and petty discrimination practised in America would be better advised to use their considerable economic power to open the doors of America to their unfortunate co-religionists, rather than seek emotional compensation in aiding and abetting the hair-brained adventures in Palestine which can result only in more violence. British and Jewish corpses dangling from trees and gallows in the Holy Land offer no solution to a problem which is largely economic in nature."

This is an editorial statement, not from Fascist Arcand's gutter press, but from the official organ of the British Columbia section of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. For a socialist analysis of the tragedy in Palestine see our editorial on page 3, "Tragedy of Zionism".

Subscribe to LABOR CHALLENGE

Drop down to 87 King Street West, Room 5, and talk it over with us, any day including Sunday.

Sept 5 1947

Dear Reg; *Bullock*

I am enclosing your copy of the P.C. minutes. I think most of the points raised therein are self explanatory except for the proposal to "draft J.B. to P.C." I take it that this is a typo and the Political Committee is meant. Would you let us know for sure.

You will be glad to know that we are just about set to send out the next internal bulletin which you will note will deal in the main with the B.C. Federation dispute. We expect to be in a position if the paper does not interfere too much to run it off and ship it out Monday night.

I expect you will have received by now the duplicate list of L.C. subscribers that you requested.

Hate to keep raising this little matter but what is the score on a P.O. box. Would you also take up the idea of holding street corner meetings in Vancouver. I am sure that there are some very good spots, a bit of tradition for that type of meeting in the old town, and I know that the Vancouver branch has some excellent persons for street corner speaking. Both September and October are fairly good months for this. It is a very good training for our comrades giving them an opportunity to learn to speak along simple socialist lines, against hecklers and so forth and it will be good training for the coming crisis when street meetings will be very common. This should be up Tom's ally and give him a chance to pass on the very important technique to the newer comrades.

Meant to write you a line long ago in thanks for the prompt return of the records. Our meeting was quite an inspiring one despite the fact the the attendance was a little disappointing...there were only about 40-45 person but the atmosphere was excellent and we managed to raise a collection of about 46 dollars. Don sent in a news report of the meeting for the paper but it was largely quotes from the old mans speech. How was the attendance, collection ~~XXX~~, book sales etc.

Very glad to hear that some of the sharpness that has developed around a few disagreements and misunderstandings is being ironed out and that Tom is playing such a valuable role. You will note that the P.C. has decided to withhold a statement on the matter until the issues at dispute are more clear. I gather however from your last letter of August 19 that the branch has asked for a statement so I am enclosing a letter for the information of the branch. In actuality what we propose to do is to open up a real rounded discussion on the matter so for that reason we are unable to take a poll of the N.C. A poll at this time would be of no value for until we get the bulletin out ~~XXX~~ no one but Vancouver knows a great deal about the matter. I know that this is an important matter to straighten out but I myself do not think we should rush it as it has deep significance for the party and goes much further than ~~XXX~~ just the matter of the B.C. Federation. Involved in it is the nature of our tasks, the role of the party, its orientation to the trade unions and the CCF etc.

What happened to the F.I. campaign? The New York office informs us that no subs were forwarded from Vancouver. Did the branch decide that it

would be unable to participate in the campaign ?

Could you take time out from all your other activities to type up some of the branch minutes. Havent seen any for a considerable time. I have been neglectful on my end for you know I was down to Grass Lark for the SWP Plenum ~~XXX~~ for one week and as soon as we got back we were tied up with the paper ~~XXX~~ the Trotsky Memorial and numerous odds and ends that accumulated. Sorry that I havent time to tell you comrade all that took place at the Plenum. Perhaps the most important point that arose was trade union wrk. The discussion flowed around ~~XXX~~ what policy to adopt in the UAW...with the Meuther caucus, Thomas Addes Caucus or with ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ either one as the local situation required. I am going to look around and see if we cannot send out a couple of the documents that were discussed although they will not give you much of an idea as the matter was not ended there but is up for further research and discussion in the SWP. On second thought I understand from Dan Roberts whom I had the pleasure of meeting that he intends to give you comrades a report so I will say no more.

Well how is the situation with the Fanacial Drive going. Have you had your meeting. The Windsor (two comrades) comrades tell us that they hope to be able to raise 100.00. Toronto had there branch meeting a few nights ago and if I remember right 13 comrades pledged over 350 dollars.... other comrades are going to make theirs next week.

I just happened to think of it...does the branch intend to hold a raffle. Toronto does and is having the books printed for distribution to the members on Tuesday night coming. If Vancouver has decided to do so it would be a good idea to have the print job done here at our printers as we will the presses setup the typed laid out six and if you could let us know at one there would be that much saving for you. We are running off ~~NIN~~ 90 books of 25 tickets each. We are offering prizes of 5 tube matel radio, photographic portrait by a prominent photographer, man's or womens pocket book and 5 consolation prizes. (L.C. subs.) ~~XXXX~~ The first prize is being obtained by one of the comrade wholesale, the second is a donation by one of our sympathizers as is the third. If you could obtain the same prizes it would be duck soup if not the changes could be made easily. We would have to know by Monday as we are promised delivery of the books Tuesday.

The Pacific Tribune came in yesterday and I see that Ewen has picked up the CCF's anti-semitic editorial.

I think that is all for now.

comradely

Ross D.

P.S. Forgot to tell you that all the comrades can certainly rest assured nothing will appear in the paper on the B.C. Federation PAC until such time as the whole matter has been settled to the satisfaction of the party membership.

September 5 1947

To the Vancouver Branch;

Dear Comrades;

We gather from a note from your branch secretary dated August 19 that the Branch has requested a formal statement from the Political Committee on the issues of dispute that have arisen around the B.C. Federation of Labor and its appointment of a 17 man Political Action Committee.

The Political Committee at a recent meeting has had a further discussion on the whole matter and has decided that it would be in error if at this time it circulated a formal statement on the question. The P.C. is desirous of throwing open a broader discussion in the party on the various issues involved in order to obtain a more rounded picture.

The questions that flow from this dispute are of a much wider interest and importance than the actions of the B.C. Federation of Labor. It is our opinion that they encompass the very nature of our party, its tasks and also its orientation to the trade unions and the CCF.

We know that the Vancouver comrades are very anxious to clear this matter up at once so that you will have a clearer perspective for your work, but in view of the broad ramifications of the dispute we feel that it is necessary to have a very rounded discussion on all its aspects and that we should take all the time that is necessary for such a discussion.

The next Internal Bulletin will be devoted almost entirely to the clarification of this matter and will include the contributions from L.W., R.B., and M.D. This bulletin will be in your hands at the close of the coming week.

We urge all comrades to participate in the discussion to ensure that the party will be able to consider all its aspects and arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible.

Fraternally

R. Dowson
for the P.C.

September 16 1947

Dear Reg;

We are all pleased to see that the Vancouver comrades have responded so well to the financial drive and have ~~made~~ plans that we are sure will put the drive well over the top. Unfortunately we did not receive your letter until Saturday the 13th. The paper had not only gone to press but had already been mailed with the Vancouver copies up around Sudbury on the way west. By the time you get this letter the papers should have just arrived.

(to pass)

I think it might be a good idea on some of our experiences in the last drive. We too tried to cover all the Toronto subscribers when we had a list of around 2 to 3 hundred. Unfortunately we found it a very discouraging project. Most of the people seen had only a sketchy idea what the paper was all about as they had not been receiving it very long. Even those who knew and were sympathetic did not feel close enough to make donations of any size, if at all. To give a donation is quite an act of political solidarity ~~workers~~ and when you consider how the ~~bulk~~ bulk of the subs were obtained AND ON WHAT simple plan I think you will agree that the idea of covering all the subscribers offers very little possibility of substantial returns in consideration of the labor entailed. I think ~~that~~ where you really will raise your money is from the many sympathizers and contacts that the group has. From these sources we raised over 250 dollars in Toronto. To do a real job it takes considerable time as a comrade can only see ~~these~~ two or three of this type of person in an evening at the most. Some of these people gave as high as 20 dollars and we always try to get about ten dollars basing our requested

figure on what we know of the persons income and their attitude towards us. Many of these people give money as a sort of ~~Marxist~~ "conscience" donation. Many of them are actually in ~~complete~~ disagreement with us but like to see a paper such as our come off the presses. I think if a few of the comrades who have been around the movement for a while sit down they they could draw up a sizeable list of persons who could be approached... people like Van, Eve Smith, etc. If after we go over these people we can still spare time to work the subscribers it might be worth while. Of course I am speaking only from our experiences which I hope might be of some use and save the comrades what might be a lot of wasted time.

I was glancing through the CCF News yesterday and noticed that Vancouver municipal elections take place December 10. I wonder if you would take up this question at the next Executive and membership meeting. We have three or four comrades who would be well qualified to run particularly since some of them are well known in the T.U. movement. Of course elections are just the type of publicity that we need... let workers know that there is a RWP and that it has a program that comes to grip with their most pressing daily problems. This is a marvellous opportunity for the Vancouver branch which I am convinced we should take advantage of if at all possible. I hope the electoral qualifications are not too high. I have not had the opportunity to take the matter up with the P.C. but if our financial drive goes well over I think it might be possible to give Vancouver some financial aid. Would you let us know what the situation is on this suggestion as soon as possible.

How is the headquarters hunt coming along. We are also out on the trail of a couple of planes.

I think you would like to hear about ~~the~~ street corner meeting that ~~we~~ held last week. We have not held any in Toronto for over 8 years. We have only a few comrades who are experienced enough to speak on a corner (not as well off as you people) so we had not tried it before. Well, last Saturday we set up a chair on a busy street corner and three of the comrades tried their hand. We had taken up a few pamphlets and 50 copies of the paper. At half time we had sold all the papers. At various times we had approximately 100 people there. Very friendly audience, no disruption except for one drunk and several of the audience told him in no uncertain terms to get up. ~~It was a terrific success.~~ Our only regret is that we did not try it long ago even though we only have a few speakers. Unfortunately the weather is getting cold here and there is not much opportunity to have many repeats. The branch has decided however to postpone its fall forums until the weather prevents us from holding street corner meetings. We plan one a week. Since there are only four or five weeks ahead of suitable weather we intend to move around to various corners and not try to set up a tradition this year at any one corner. We are having one of the comrades make a proper speaker stand, a couple of signs, interest cards, and so forth.

I see that the branch has decided to sponsor no more public meetings unless there is a live issue which can be capitalized. I wonder if one of the reasons for this is the small attendance that we have been getting at the few meetings we have called and the expense that they involve. Possible outdoor meetings would solve this problem. They of course cost nothing. They are marvelous opportunities to make contact with elements that we have no other way of meeting. You have some comrades who would be tops at this skill (Lloyd, Tom, etc.) I am sure that there are some excellent corners out in Vancouver which we can take over and of course you have the advantage of the mild Vancouver weather.

Very interested to see that the branch is going to discuss the question of a trade union program. It seems to me that we would have great difficulty in putting "the RWP's position in the trade unions" down on a leaflet and just the value such a leaflet would be since we are NOT as yet a factor in the trade unions. I think however that it would be well to consider drawing up some material on the matter and attempt to get it published in a small pamphlet form that could sell at 5 cents. I think it would be a good idea if we discussed such a project after the financial drive when we know how we are fixed for money. I think that such a pamphlet could be printed for a comparatively small amount of money. Could you send along a copy of the draft when Lloyd has it prepared?

Sorry about the internal bulletin. We have both your and Lloyd's contribution stencilled but have been held up by Murray. He has been working on a document which he would like to go into this bulletin. Last Monday he told us that he had it all written but had to get it typed up. We have been waiting on it as we expect it to come in any day.

Search By the way in a letter from Angus recently he raised the matter of ~~any~~ of equipment out there. I see that you use a typewriter and that Borland ~~like~~ and Ellaline do also but if the situation is such that these are not available normally for party use we might be able to send you one. We have three here, one which I gave to the party, but we could spare along on two if necessary. If you would like I will take the matter of sending one out there up at the next P.C.
 comradely - Ross

COMMENTS ON ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS

(Revolutionary Workers Party of Canada -- Internal Bulletin, Vol. 1 No. 4 (5) September 1947

By Ross Dowson

The problems confronting our party at its present stage of development are many and diverse. They flow generally from the present stage of development of the Canadian party and the character of the period in which the party must work.

We have characterized this period as “the death agony of capitalism,” as an “epoch of wars and revolutions.” This stage in world history is marked in Canada by militant and mighty upsurges in the economic field and an increasing politicization of the working class.

The world is ripe, rotten ripe for the socialist revolution, all that is lacking is a powerful revolutionary leadership. This whole period, when the most elementary demands of the working class bring them into a head-on clash with all the organs of state repression and terror, is an extremely favorable one for the development of a mass party. It might be generally characterized as an agitational period, when extraordinary opportunities present themselves for the dissemination of a few or perhaps only one idea to many people, which will raise their level to an understanding of their tasks, launch them into anti-capitalist combat and bring them into the proletarian vanguard.

But the RWP is small in numbers, meager in influence in the mass organizations of the workers, and the reformist CCF and Stalinist LPP dominate the labor movement. Our party is a propaganda group and our task is the dissemination of many fundamental ideas to a few people, to train and educate cadres, to direct our main energies towards the most advanced elements in the worker's ranks (the LPP and the CCF) and win them to our banner.

While we are a propaganda group and must perform the duties of such a group, however, the general character of the period in which we live somewhat modifies this fact. On occasion we will and already have had the opportunity to – break out of the more narrow and limited tasks of a propaganda group and participate in and launch agitational actions.

The stage of development of our party and the extreme crisis of world society reflects itself in the party. On the one hand, in a desire of some comrades to step out faster and much further than our forces will permit and on the other hand by a tendency to turn the party's face inward, to limit our activities to branch meetings and occasional forums. The former tendency reflects in general the inexperience of our party and its leadership and will be rectified by and large by experience itself as the party grows and tests itself in the class struggle. The latter tendency, a hangover and product of our past years of isolation and inactivity is a much more dangerous tendency and must be rooted out.

We are a propaganda group. No amount of well meaning impatience with this fact will enable us to solve our problems. The party cannot by-pass this stage in its development any more than it can ignore the tremendous barrier that exists in the CCF and LPP. There are no magic formulas

or get rich quick solutions. All illusions about this must be scrapped if we are going to avoid the pitfalls of trade union fetishism, syndicalism and adventurism.

That we are generally aware of the possibilities, that we are leaping into the mass movement at every opportunity without spreading ourselves too thin or getting bogged down with trade union fetishism is revealed in the mayoralty campaign put on by the Toronto branch, the fight against racial persecution at Icelandia, the national subscription drives, etc. In this sense it is increasingly required that we be able to judge what tasks are necessary and what are possible in the given situation, taking into account the forces that we are able to deploy.

There is an ever-increasing need to break decisively from the old hemmed-in study class atmosphere and to turn the face of the party outwards and involve it in public activity. It is necessary to seize every possible occasion to put the party's face before the masses and prove to them that our party is the only one that is vitally concerned with their welfare and has a program that meets their needs.

In order to fully meet the opportunities that present themselves we have to root out all these old habits of work that are a product of the past when to even survive was a great feat. We have to destroy every fear and hesitation to indulge in new activities, to bring new workers into our ranks for fear that we cannot absorb them in the party and so forth.

The party must identify itself with the day to day struggles of the workers, popularize its name and its program. Every attempt to hide the party's face, every attempt to atomize its structure and to make the party anonymous, must be fought.

To popularize the party and its program requires the identification of the party and program with persons, with faces, names and addresses. No party can remain anonymous, function, and spread its influence... for ideas do not hang in the air by themselves but are carried in the minds and hearts of men. Part of the task of popularizing our program is to popularize its leaders and spokesmen, to identify it with men and women who are its members and who have proven to be loyal and true fighters, whom we hold up as examples for the workers.

It is no accident that all ideas and movements are identified with names: Epicurean, Platonist, Darwinism, Marxist, Trotskyist. The memory of Debs has been aflame in the minds of men long after the party of which he was a spokesman passed from the scene.

"Introverts" may attempt to justify their desire to dabble in the sterile atmosphere of a closed study group by raising the bogey of "security" in the face of the rising tide of red-baiting and the anti-Soviet drive. To forestall a possible threat of suppression, they may advocate self-suppression now. But the best defense against the danger of suppression of our party is to launch an offense – to popularize our party, our ideas and our leaders at an increased tempo. Our best defense is to plant our feet deeper into the ranks of the workers. All tendencies to turn back and turn (inwards), only pave the way for our complete annihilation.

This of course does not mean that the party should refuse to take the most elementary precautions which are necessary in the case of occasional individuals whose means of livelihood

may be endangered, etc, but the precautions must of necessity be of a limited character. Nothing important has ever been achieved without some risk to personal comfort.

Small study circles, dabbling, talk fests, and party pseudonyms can only doom the party to complete stagnation. Our party is a revolutionary party whose ambition it is to lead the Canadian workers in all their struggles which will be crowned by the socialist revolution in Canada. To do this it is necessary to make it a part of these struggles and to train it as a powerful and popular leadership that the workers can respect for its ability and seriousness. The workers have no use for conspirators, talkers and dabblers.

INTERNAL BULLETIN

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of Canada

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October 2 1947

(Whalen)

Ruth (Benson, Toronto)

Dear Lloyd;

Thanks for your note of a few weeks ago suggesting that this last issue should go further than just news report of the strike situation as it is unfolding. We had been thinking the very same thing. As a matter of fact Borland must have received a letter from Ruth raising the very same idea for the next issue of the paper. You should receive the bundle in a few days. We gave the call for a 24 hour general strike, the headline, a cartoon, and a front page editorial. From your letter on B.C. Federation's conference and subsequent reports of the situation that Reg has sent in I am sure that the paper will get a good reception. Reg tells us that the leaflet caused considerable inte rest amongst the workers,

A few well placed leaflets like this will go a long way towards making a name f. for the party and building it up numerically. It is unfortunate that our party is so small and as yet comparatively isolated from the main stream of the workers otherwise we could really hope to influence events and the twenty four hour strike would be a fighting issue and real possibility. From what we can see from here the Stalinists CCF and trade union bureaucrats are a terrific break on the whole struggle and will be able to drown any ~~any~~ any action. The present parliamentary crisis will only fortify these elements and strengthen theri position. It They hope that they can win a few concessions from the new coalition authorities or whatever comes out of Hart's resignation. Reg tells us that there is considerable confusion now in the strikers ranks and a great wondering what is the next step. Our leaflet, the paper and our comrades raising the 24 hour strike demand wherever they are will no doubt win considerable support and respect from the militants. There should be a good chance of our making contact with some very good elements, ~~any~~ any, and bringing them into the party.

I gather from Borland's letter in reply to Ruth that a few remarks that Ruth made came up in the discussion in the branch. Borland suggests that there should not be too much emphasis on an appeal for a special session of the legislature. Of course he is right there—we said nothing at all about a special session. We opposed any idea of amending the bill in any way but its complete repeal. It seems to me that we cannot oppose the idea of a special session of the house...all we have to do is show that an appeal won't get it...that a 24 hour sympathy strike is necessary to get any action at all. These two demands are not counterposed one against the other in reality. A twenty four hour general strike would provoke a government crisis and Bill 39 would only be ripped from the statute books by a special parliamentary session. Of course the Stalinists and other try to counterpose one demand against the other, afraid of any real action they hope that Hart and coy will retreat before a barrage of words and empty threats. I think the matter is more correctly stated; appeals are not enough, the CCF tried to ammd the bill 40 times, what is needed is action, action that the bosses will understand. And of course this type of action is a terrific experience for the workers. Be sure to drop us a letter to let us know what you think of the last issue and what you think should go into the next one.

I suppose you are wondering what happened to your article on the IWA convention. that it did not appear in print. Well, there were several reason. One of them was that we had a terrific amount of trade union material as it was when we devoted so much space to the B.C. situation. We had to carry the second of my articles on the trade uni on leadership and also the packinghouse material. Another reason was that the article

contrary to our expectations was very general, covering in fact some of the points which were being dealt with in the Paul Kane article. (red baiting). I see that Larsen and Leux have handed in their resignations. No doubt there is considerable ferment and interest in the union around the whole affair. What do you say to taking back this article, dropping the convention report lead as it is now becoming old stuff and rewriting it on the basis of what repercussion it is having on the B.C. IWA. Do you think we have something there?

~~XXXX~~ I have just been ~~XXXXXX~~ talking it over with Ruth and it looks like we will not be able to carry it in the next issue for as things are now we will have to cover the CCL and TLO conventions, the packinghouse strike, fight against Bill 39, and that is a big slice of our trade union space. Could we have it for the November issue of the paper. Would you work it over well for it is very risky for us to make any changes from here.

Jean just phoned me up a few minutes ago. Here has just arrived for the convention....apparently the big guns are coming in early to prepare the ground. I will have him write you a letter to give you the inside dope on the eastern IWA,....I thought you knew that it was all called off by Brown...or didn't I tell you.

I suppose you have received the bulletin on political action by now. What do you think of Murray's contribution? I suppose Angus will be forwarding a document on the question. When you see him next tell him I will be dropping him a line in the next week or so I....have been very busy. It is good to see the great improvement in finances in Vancouver. We are looking forward as anxiously as you to the new headquarters for we know that it will give the branch a great impetus ~~XXXXXX~~ in its work and growth.

comradely

Ross

P.S. We are enclosing a copy of a resolution passed unan by the IEC recently dealing with the British question. Reg reports that there was some exception taken to the letter that the P.C. sent to the RCP on this matter. Reg suggests that a discussion should be promoted among N.C. members and a formal position developed on the question. I wish we could develop a discussion on the matter but I do not see how it is possible to have a very fruitful one. The real solution would be to hold a plenum where all N.C. members could be put in the picture. I was hoping that the CCL convention would present us with such an opportunity if some of you were delegates. Personally I think it would be a little presumptuous on our part to take a formal position on this particular problem. I think we did about all we could do when we rejected Haston's request that we should protest to the IEC and should accept his characterization that the minority's request was a split. As you can see from the resolution adopted by majority representatives the problem has reached a happy solution...I think our rejection of Haston's appeal had a bit to do with it. Personally I think that the P.C. is a bit of a farce if it is not given this latitude. Decisions could only be taken ten months after the event if we commenced a discussion through the N.C. on such questions and waited till it was all threshed out. It is almost impossible to operate via the mail in any normal time limits and there is that bugbear...the terrible limits of our apparatus.

October 3 1947

Dear Rag:

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Thanks for the \$25.00 If you are lagging it is not yet serious. Generally the campaign seems to be coming along alright although ~~there~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ it looks ~~XXX~~ like we will go a little under in the Prairies but I think the rest of us will make that up ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

You should be receiving the paper any day now. Hope the comrades like the head, the cartoon and front page edit, all on the fight against bill 39 and for a 24 hour general strike. From the picut re you give of the general situation I am sure that the paper will rouse considerable interest....even more than your very good leaflet since it is a printed job.

A few good leaflets published on vital issues from time to time will go a long way towards making the party known. I gather from your report and the odd thing in the press that the CCF, Stalinists and Trade union bureaucrats will in all probability be able to side-track or suppress any real development for a 24 hour strike. The parliamentary crisis in B.C. will only further play in to their hands and reinforce the belief that the bill can be amended without any militant action. It is certainly unfortunate that we are not yet sufficiently influential in the working class movement to really carry this struggle from a propaganda plane, however this fact should only to greater recruiting work and building of the party. I am sure that the leaflet and paper with their ~~XX~~ totally correct line will put us in contact with some of the best militants and make many workers respect our party and its program... help us build the party and put us in a more favourable position for the many more opportunities that are developing.

Next time you run off a leaflet would you send along about fifteen copies so we could let the members at large see some of your work. We have posted the one you sent us up on our bulletin board here. How many did you distribute?

It is very unfortunate about Borland. He was doing a very good job on that reporting assignment and his literary style was improving. What is his perspective? To go back to school or to work? I think you N.C. members there should seriously keep in mind the problem of a branch organizer. If we had the money we would of course have an organizer there right away. Does Borland live at home and are his folks sending him through college. He impresses us as a fellow capable of development. If he could go to school with no expense it might be a good idea to suggest that he get out of industry and spend his time over and above studies as the branch organizer...he could be more valuable at this in the long run in my opinion. Particularly when we get this headquarters we are going to need some one who can carry more of the party work burden. It may be necessary to take a comrade like Borland who is not yet integrated in industry as your and Loyd are and push him as the party worker and potential leader. An idea anyway.....

Is there anything new on the McKean situation. In the latest issue of the Pacific Tribune T. McEwen devotes almost a page to an attack on McKean and ~~XXXXXX~~ persons who recently broke from the U.S. C.P. Did you see it? I would gather from this that McKean is making some headway or that there is some ferment in the IPP. He mentions a Jack Greenall who has recently been expelled from the IPP. Does Lloyd or Tom know him? Have we had any contact with McKean lately? It will be very valuable to follow the rumoured developments in the CCF. Will you keep us informed. I am thinking

of writing an article for the internal bulletin on the CCF, recent developments Etc. if and when I get the time.

On this matter of "sympathizers", A member of course is one who agrees to abide by the discipline of the party and to engage actively in its work. We have many people who agree with our program but who do not desire to work for the party. These people are properly sympathizers and not members although we have persons of this type still in our ranks. As long as such comrades wish to remain in the party and do not constitute a threat to the discipline of the party I see ~~no~~ ^{no} harm in them staying for there is always the possibility or probability that they will re-activate themselves under changing circumstances. No one can define how much activity is required to be considered a member, A persons activity particularly that of an inexperienced or immature comrade ebbs and flows. However if there are many inactive comrades around they tend to set the pace and constitute a threat to the future development of the branch into an active Bolshevik one. This was the situation in Montreal....although some of these persons were inactive through no fault of their own due to the nature of their jobs. Here they were so numerous as to set the tone of the whole branch and made it impossible to bring new ~~new~~ ^{new} elements to the party and give them a genuine conception of what we were building. It was on this basis that we had to call a halt. In the case of this older comrade in Vancouver, I gather that he feels unable to meet the demands of membership ~~XXX~~ has no political disagreements ~~XXXXXX~~ but feels physically unable to carry on. This is regrettable but I see no alternative but to accept his request to be allowed to drop his membership. As a sympathizer we may be able to get as much out of him as before...perhaps he will help us with sub campaigns, certainly we should try to have him take a bundle and spread the paper around and get a regular financial contribution from him etc. I do not think we should be too anxious to purge the party of all persons who seem at this time to be of the same character ~~but~~ are riding along....that is as long as these elements do not weaken and undermine the discipline of the branch generally. ~~XX~~ I do not think we can be too rigid in our demands and categories. We demand more of older comrades, inexperienced ones, less. No one has ever been able to build the party by iron laws and discipline. The best way is to inspire activity. We are carrying comrades along here in Toronto. There are three or four comrades who are almost completely inactive except for attendance to meetings and payment of dues. But this little block of three or four people changes its composition. It is not big enough to hurt the branch. so we let it ride. We have had a bit of a turn over. ...always on the basis of inactivity never on political disagreement. In these cases we have been always careful to try to maintain good relationship....we never expell them but just drop them from membership. Expulsion is a much more definitive break, reserved for political purposes. Drop from membership permits a person to come in easy....just a desire to become active again.

I know I have been talking all around the subject and repeated many truisms and obvious remarks but the points you pose are rather vague....I hope this fits the bill even if in a round-about way

I am picking this letter up Sunday morning. Jean M. is ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ town for the Convention of the CCL. We took him up as an observer to our second street corner meeting. We tried a new area this time...in the heart of the Stalinist foreign working class area. The meeting was a terrific success. Sold over 75 papers, four people signed interest cards, sold a couple of Trotsky's pamphlet on Fascism. We had a stable crowd of fifty workers for the entire two hours of the meeting. It reached as high as a hundred at times. Very warm audience. They clapped the speaker at various times with no urging from our own comrades Paddy and I carried the ball and we introduced an new comrade to the game, a comrade of only 17 years of age. The meeting was held quite formally with Paddy in the chair. We have a very fine speakers stand that was built by one of the

comrades. The comrades had prepared speeches but of course you can only use the very crudest type of notes. As the meeting developed I gave an extemporaneous talk on our position on the Soviet Union. Sort of an experiment. There was no question that there were many Stalinists in the audience but there was only one minor disturbance and I felt that there was a considerable understanding and sympathy for our position on the USSR.

I see from your letter of Sept 17 that the branch talked about holding street corner meetings but "of the opinion that time is not opportune for such a venture." I do not want to push the matter for I am sure that the comrades have seriously considered what is possible for them to do with their as yet small forces but could you give us an idea in what way the comrades think street corner meetings are not practical. In so far as experienced street corner speakers are concerned you are much better off than Toronto. I gather that the comrades have been extremely disappointed in hall meeting results and so this seems to me to be a very good turn for us. These meetings cost nothing, they require no elaborate preparations. What is more they popularize our party and put us in contact with workers whom we are normally cut off from.

What is the score on running someone in the coming municipal elections?

I am enclosing with this note some copies of a resolution that was just adopted by the IBC on the English question. I think this may help to clarify some of the "strong objection" taken to the P.C. action on this matter. I gather that the comrades think a discussion should be promoted among N.C. members and a formal position taken on this question. We thought that it would be rather presumptuous on part to take a formal position on this question but that all we could do is reject Easton's characterization of the minority's request as a "split" and inform him that we did not intend to make an appeal to the IBC. As you can see the matter has been resolved to both parties satisfaction. I like to think that our reply to the majority had no small party in the solution. I do not see how it is possible to have a rounded discussion on such matters in the N.C. We have neither the forces to conduct such a discussion nor the time. In essence that is why we set up a P.C. What we really need is a plenum where a rounded report of the international and national scene could be given to all N.C. members. I was hoping that we could have a partial one through the grace of the CCL but Jean is the only one here.

I only wish we could operate in the completely democratic manner as the B.C. comrades seem to think we must. But we cannot overcome the fact that we are a very small party, with no funds at our disposal and only two full time persons. Even the American party in its much more favourable position cannot operate as we would desire. We receive all the correspondence that an N.C. member in the S&P receives. I assure you you know almost as much of all the details of party development outside your area as does Dan Roberts. He has the U.S. Internal Bulletin and the odd letter and that is all except for the fact that they are able to hold a plenum once or twice a year which is fairly well attended because they have many full time functionaries who are free to go. The American party secretariat functions in the same manner as our P.C. and has considerable latitude because such latitude is necessary in order to operate. I think you can well imagine when we would have been able to reply to Easton's letter if we carried the whole thing through the N.C. with all the necessary correspondence etc.

I think your idea of a report of the organization is an excellent one. As a matter of fact we were going to put one in the last internal bulletin but decided to leave it with the sub campaign report and the Toronto election experience. However

on thinking it over I am enclined to agree with you. Will take it up with the other matters at the next P.C. meeting.

I meant to tell you this before but I am sure you understood when we did not respond to your request for 3 dozen copies of the leaflet attacking CCF anti-semitism. The leaflet was obviously only of use here in Toronto as there was little analysis....so we did not send you any more than a sample. By the way what is new on Bill White's case.

While I think of it....I see that Habbie Salloum is in L.A. going to School. I gather that you met a Jim McAree (a contact of Byron Johnson's) while at Seattel. McAree is also going to L.A. Could you put them in contact with one another. Does Salloum intend to become active in the L.A. branch while there....it will be a good experience for him and for the Vancouver branch when he returns.

I think that this is about all for now but ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I thought you might like to know what we spoke on at the 2 meetings.

- 1 Paddy a general talk as only he can give one
Fight against inflation, the blind allies, the sliding scale
World War II and prep for IIIrd
- 2 fight against inflation, the blind allies the sliding scale
Why we have organized the RWP, what is wrong with the CCF and IFF
Fascism, not dead, a rising threat, how to fight it.

comradely

Ross

October 7 1947)

White
B. B. 21

Stan? Stanton

Dear Comrade Bill

Thanks for your explanatory note. We received the money order that your wife mailed a few days previously and were wondering why there was no letter enclosed.

We have entered Malm's sub and applied the ten dollars to the monthly sustaining account. I gather that is where you wanted it and not the financial drive account. We are glad to see that you are confident that you can raise the \$15 quota and more so we can dispose of that infernal money bugbear and get down to work on our political tasks.

It is unfortunate that you were unable to attend the union meeting and defend your resolution on the sliding scale. We have been putting the sliding scale contract that the Montreal Imperial Tobacco Workers won to very good propaganda use. The Canadian Packing-house workers Canadian paper had an editorial on the sliding scale in the last issue. They reproduced a resolution that one of the American locals had passed which stated that it would have been more valuable if greater attention had been paid to this demand when they were framing their last contract. We have been pushing it for all we are worth in Toronto area but we are not yet strong enough to rally any real support. One comrade got his local in the paper box workers to include it in their demands but they dropped it when it came to settlement. The comrades have been plastering plant bulletin boards with the clipping on the Tobacco workers ~~XXXXX~~ that we ran in Labor Challenge. Another comrade was able to have his local, the biggest in Toronto pass a resolution on the sliding scale for the CCL convention but we are sure that it will never hit the floor.

We have not been able to follow recent developments on the Marbel ^Aroh incident very closely. Rag and other were slated to write up something on it but we received nothing since the one item we ran in the paper. We also noted the meally mouthed CCF News article. Your action of taking the whole matter to the unions was very good. Since Stanton is the union lawyer I see no alternative but to have him take the case into civil court. Of course it would be preferable to have someone other than a Stalinist who was more militant, we have one in Chicago on the Hickam case but we will have to use what there is. As to the advisability of taking it to court I am not at all familiar with recent developments, what could be gained by court action or what kind of a case you have. But you, the Vancouver comrades and Stanton know this and should decide. If we have a good case I am of the opinion that we should really fight it. Aside from the need for a courageous fight against discrimination in all its forms it would be a good experience for you and possibly lead us to some very good contacts. It would be indeed a pleasure to see a well fought struggle against discrimination. There are practically no cases that are fought because usually the persons who are discriminated against are too cowardly, inexperienced or suffer from bad legal advice. If we have a good case and it seems we have or Stanton would not bother with it I think we should go all out. Of course there is the personal problem of your wife. I do not know if she would go right along with it although from various letters I gather she would. If I remember correctly the CCF News implies that you were not with your wife but someone else. They will certainly try to drag this all through the case and your wife will be under considerable social pressure.

There is no rush for Black Jacobins as it is my own copy and I have no immediate need of it. Neither the Stalin School of Falsification or the DEWEY Report are available new or second hand. We have very good connection with the second hand book sources but practically nothing of that sort turns up. People who have books of that type dispose of them to friends. However we have a copy of each of these books here in the Toronto branch library that we would be only too pleased to send out on loan to you. As soon as I send off this letter I will wrap up the Stalin School and send it out to you....I suppose you could return it alright within a months time.

How is this chap Malm coming along? Does it appear that we will be able to organize a party group in Britannia this fall and winter. The Vancouver comrades should be able to give you some help in this. Possibly Lloyd or one of the comrades @BC could stay in Britannia over a week-end help you sew it up. I know that sometimes it takes the visit and impression of a stranger to tie up all the loose threads and impress persons that local comrades have been working on for a considerable time that we mean business.

warmest regards, comradely

Ross Dowson

87 King St. West, Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.
Oct. 16, 1947

(Whitney, Van.)

Dear Comrade Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of the Mid-Oct. issue, so you won't have to wait for the bundle to see what happened to the story on Bill 39.

Fortunately, we were able to get in the bulletin on the consideration of the 24-hour strike, just as we were going to press. The longer report which your note said would be written on Sunday, has not yet reached us; perhaps it was lost in the mail, and will arrive one of these days either here or back in Vancouver.

wanted

The information that we ~~needed~~ wanted to have incorporated in the story, came in today in a note from Lloyd Whalen— an eyewitness impression of the picket line, the report that workers are becoming demoralized and feel defeated by ~~the~~ Bill 39, and the way our own work for the strike has awakened a response among the ranks, as the way to fight. The meeting of Tom and Lloyd with strike committee members, the resolution passed in IWA Local 1-217, etc.—all of these things, which we cannot possibly know in Toronto, are the kind of information we hope to get into our stories by having them written on the spot. They give authenticity, power, and liveliness to our reports, and we can't duplicate them in the office here. I know that it's difficult, the first time one takes an assignment, to decide what to write; and our instructions were very vague. But in collaboration we'll smooth out the troubles in short order!

The deadline for the next issue is Monday, Oct. 27. We will save room for 800 words —that's four typewritten, triple-spaced pages. A minor point; please leave the wider margin at the left, for instructions to the printer. I believe we sent out several bulletins on writing for Labor Challenge, which will explain the technical requirements.

We would like the story to include the news of the developments, first of all; what locals have approved or discussed the strike, how the situation looks, the state of mind of the strikers, and so on. Secondly, the positions of the national and local leadership in the unions. Thirdly, the positions of the various parties (you'll notice we filled in some, from the trend we could discern in the CCF and IPP press). The order of importance of these points may be changed, depending upon the circumstances a week from now, but all should be covered. If the trial is on again, that of course should go in, prominently.

We used the information in the story you sent us, but we had to amplify it considerably from the information we could dig ourselves; your story was only a page and a half, about 300 words. The clippings you included were very helpful, but they were not an intimate enough picture of developments; if the strikers are putting out any releases, that would be considerably better as a source of information. It's difficult to do a really good job on the basis of capitalist news sources alone.

But thanks for the contribution (we left your name off this time because

we didn't want to attribute our heavy editorialization to you without consultation). We are looking forward to the next one, which you'll have a little more time to prepare.

If the branch holds a public meeting, as Lloyd says you are considering, we'd like a separate report on that, of up to 400 words.

How do the comrades like the idea of the "KAP in Action" column? Our plan is to run it once a month at least, to keep the readers of the paper aware of our activities.

Is the branch planning a Russian Revolution Anniversary meeting? If so we'd like to have the facts for an ad in the coming issue, too.

Comradely,

October 24 1947

Dear Reg;

I am enclosing the minutes of the latest P.C. meeting and also the report of proceedings of the recent Fourth Plenum of the IEC. The latter document I am sending onto you so that the West Coast N.C. members can have an idea of what is taking place in the international. This is the only copy that we have so I have to ask you to return it within a weeks time via air-mail, if ~~XXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ the N.C. members cannot get together in the next week would you take notes from it so you could give them a report. Will the comrades observe the usual caution with some of the information included in the document.

By the way I gather that our Provisional B.C. organizing committee has not yet got in touch with ~~XXX~~ Harry Noakes, one of our few members at large in B.C. He wrote us a letter a few weeks ago asking for Lloyd's address. He raised the question of one of the B.C. comrades making a tour in (not) Magna Bay to give him some help in organizing there. I turned over Lloyd's address and he has probably got in touch with him by now. What are the possibilities of someone going there for a few days. Noakes is a very serious type and appears to have some good contacts around him. In the last campaign he obtained a sub from the fellow who ran as the LPP candidate in the last provincial elections. He asked us to say nothing about it. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I gather that he is an elderly fellow and seems to have an excellent marxist background--possibly he comes from the old Socialist Party.

Sorry to be so long in forwarding the enclosed receipt for \$92.00. Will you turn the other one over to Milaline next time you see her. How are we making out in the campaign ...will we make it and then some?

Thank Ruth for the leaflet ~~the~~ the Stalinists put out against us (strike bulletin). We will use it in the coming issue along with the editorial in the Tribune. I see that Ruth heard the same report over the radio that we put at the lead of the last article on the B.C. situation...that the VLC endorsed 24hr strike idea. We picked it up from the noon paper just as the page was going off the presses. The later papers corrected the report but then it was too late for us to do anything about it. After this on ~~XXX~~ such bulletins we will have to remember to put our source so the falsehood cannot be used against ~~XXX~~ us.

Probably the Stalinists will not use this against us although I see that they try to play around with the yellow of the paper that the leaflet was printed on. Was that the only colour you could get? It is good to be careful even with such small things...neither yellow or pink.

I see by this mornings paper that the Steelworkers have returned to work with a ten cent increase. This is a terrific blow. Bill W. was given the dead line of the 27th. Possibly we might get held ~~XXXX~~ up at the printers. Could you phone him and tell him to keep that dead line but to forward any more recent developments that would ~~put~~ us on the 28th.

will write later

Comradely
Rons

*My
This is
to the
Wick*

Dear Reg;

I am enclosing the receipt for the last contribution to the financial drive. Glad to hear that you have a little more waiting transfer from a money order and hope that between now and the fifteenth the branch manages to make its quota. It appears fairly certain that Toronto will make its objective but that it will make very little more. Windsor's very fine showing is not sufficient to make up any deficit that might be possibly left by any other centre. I think from the last report that it is clear that Vancouver's 300.00 is key to the overall success of the campaign. I did not notice anything in the minutes about the campaign or our work on contacts and sympathizers to get donations. No doubt the street-car strike has had some effect on the drive. However I understand that you have a car ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~. Did we get any response from our sympathizers? No doubt the plan to canvass subscribers became impossible with the additional inconvenience of getting around the city. Can you rush in a report for the coming issue of the paper. The absolute and final deadline is the arrival of the morning mail here on November 11th.

Glad to hear that you have a plentitude of typewriters. I have just contacted one of our old sympathizers and have ascertained that we have a mimeograph machine here (it is up at his home) that we are not using. I cannot recall what it is like except that it was in working condition when last used in 1941, probably a hand feed job. At any rate first time we have a chance to pick it up we will do so and express it on to you. It will do in a pinch for sending out notices of meetings socials etc. and possibly at a little later date we will have the money to use it as a trade in on a machine with an automatic feed. The machine we have here in the office now is a reconditioned Mimeograph machine purchased from the manufacturer. If I recall correctly it only cost us 100 dollars less a 20 dollar trade in from another old machine we had here. It does an excellent job.

Sorry to hear that Kirk has dropped away and glad to see that the branch did everything possible to give him a chance to activate himself first. I see our fears were groundless. What worried me was that suddenly the treasurer notifies us that the membership is taking a terrific cut with no explanation. We wondered if you were having a purge and using the iron rod on some of the comrades. Glad to see that we have not been too formalistic about membership qualifications and that we are giving these comrades every chance to become real bolsheviks before giving them the ax. The amount of leeway I think must be determined on the basis of the individual comrade, his knowledge and understanding of the party and what membership demands of him and the general situation in the branch itself---by being too lax there is the danger of setting a bad precedent and undermining the discipline of the entire branch.

precedent

I see that the Colin Gray case has not been settled yet. This would indeed be a real loss to the branch. His sub work was really terrific and all your reports and remarks have shown him to be such a militant and enthusiastic type. It seems hard to believe that such a type would capitulate before family pressure or would weaken before one possible case of black-balling.

By now you have received and read the last issue of the paper. The lead story on the Vancouver tramway strike is not Whitney's but is one that Ruth wrote up on the basis of the Pacific Tribune, CCF News and a Vancouver Weekly paper that we had received just before going to press. Bill missed the deadline by 6 days. We received his material on November the first when the paper was already half way across the Prairies. You can imagine we were in quite a spot as we left the gap in the paper up until the very last minute hoping that Bill would come through. The material that he finally sent in was quite good. He shows ability to write, probably he has little time. I hope he can make the coming dead-line. However even if the material has arrived in time in my opinion we would have ~~XXXX~~ had to make a change of orientation in the articles. Bill treated the whole struggle in B.C. ~~XXXX~~ almost entirely from the point of view that it was a wage struggle and had therefore ended in victory although only partial. We have all along been holding as uppermost that the struggle is and certainly must be a struggle against Bill 39. If this is so then the whole thing has ended in a fiasco with workers still under threat of fines imprisonment, the bill still on the books etc. Bill's line is no doubt the line that the trade union bureaucrats and Stalinists take, for although they recognized the struggle as being one against Bill 39 they wanted to use the strikes merely as a pressure to get the law revised or slightly remodified. Now they will be free to carry the fight against Bill 39 as they wished...through the courts etc and not militant struggle. Bill 39 remains to be smashed and of course the fact that it ~~XXX~~ it is still on the statute books and the bosses have a hundred odd workers under threat of fines and imprisonment paves the way for the enactment of the federal anti-labor bill which may come down in the next session. In my opinion that while the strikes were settled with the winning of wage increases Bill's line is very narrow and in complete contradiction distributed. Of course the tramway strike is a straight wage fight as they conformed to all the ins and outs of the law but it too can be well put to expose Bill 39 as they after going through all the red tape found it necessary to strike. We are planning on writing an editorial on the lessons of the fight against Bill 39 for the next issue.

Extremely sorry to hear about Portland's unfortunate accident and hope that he suffers from no serious after effects

It is also unfortunate that none of the comrades qualify for civic elections as I am sure that we would really make a name for ourselves in the turbulent situation in B.C. We are seriously considering the possibility of someone making a national tour this coming spring. I hope that it can be arranged so that we can give comrades in out of the way places such as Magna Bay a hand. I can see that it would be very difficult to handle Moskes otherwise since the distance is so great. We are publishing a section of an article that he sent in in the coming issue of the paper.

Angus has already informed us of his change of address. No doubt it will be a bit of a blow to the Vancouver branch however Angus is a comrade who will not suffer to any extent from isolation in P.R. He can and will do good work wherever he is

and of
 us. I am rather shocked to see that some comrades have such a low opinion of the National Office that they can believe that the use of initials and not full names in the last internal bulletins "was deliberate" to give additional coloration and point" to my short article.

I should not say rather shocked but stunned. They must think that we are a pack of small-minded scheming coniving bunch of rascals... It would be good for a healthy belly laugh if it did not happen to involve the national leadership of a political party that is dedicated to the proletarian revolution. A leadership ~~XXXXX~~ of any organization of any type would be indeed bankrupt if it was compelled to stoop to such pettiness to substantiate some position it held.

Couldn't it possibly be just an accident or an oversight. That by the time ~~XX~~ the "bureaucracy" got around to working on the bulletin ~~XX~~ it had slipped their minds that the authors had authorized use of their full signatures and they put in the initials. Couldn't it be a slip and not an insidious plot. I prefer ~~XXX~~ to ~~XXXXXX~~ believe that some one is having a joke, pulling our leg.

It was only natural of course that Murray's article should not answer the old charge that the original editorial "was a change of policy made without party discussion". Only natural because Murray is of the opinion that the editorial did not constitute a change of policy and at least was satisfied ~~XXXX~~ with the explanation that the author gave that if it was it was not meant to be ~~XXXXX~~.

My own article is an attempt to pose some of the problems that have been raised recently in the party. I believe it is quite general doesn't lay opinions or ideas that it supports or refutes to any particular person or branch. How it can give "the whole international" the wrong opinion of anyone I do not know. The international could in my mind only draw opinions of anykind about the author of the document. I hope that it has however provoked some discussion as was its intention and that we will shortly have some material for the internal bulletin.

I suppose you have seen the more recent developments around the Greenall case. I had no idea that he was such a prominent figure, an international trustee, in the IWA. His position on the signing of the "anti-communist affidavit" is first rate, especially for a person who has just broken from the LPP. The usual direction that such persons have taken is to land in the camp of the red-baiters. Then again his stand on Bill 39, that the whole thing will make the workers more radical and militant. False, ultra-leftist but again very healthy. I hope we can contact him and have a serious discussion with him. At any rate we should send him literature at once. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ If we cannot get him it is probable that he will link up with McKean and Bill Dunne in the U.S.

Your information on the speech of Prtichett and Engblad is very interesting although we are at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ a loss to understand what it is all about. The only effective force we had near the convention was the power house up here at 87 King West. Jen of course was there but we came to a common agreement that he should play a passive role. We were of the opinion that ~~XXXXX~~ to contest the vicious witch hunt launched by the administration would only cause the administration to move in against him all the sooner

Jen = Jean (-Marie Bédard?)

and of course we are stalling for time so that we can build a base under us. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Jean voted against the administration. He was prepared to speak on the anti-communist resolution but Mosher would not give him the floor. The fight was so sharp and the lines so drawn that the Stalinists made quite a play for Jean when he cast his votes against the administration. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ We did however make a distribution at the convention with Labor Challenge(although we only had about half the copies on hand necessary to cover the whole ~~AAA~~ assembly). I am inclined to believe that their remarks are made not because of our influence or role at the CCL Convention which you can see was nihil but that they reflect the work that Lloyd and others are doing in the Vancouver locals of the IWA.

I suppose you have heard about the collapse of the Stalinist Daily Tribune. We are writing an article about it in the coming issue of L.C. The editor confessed that the highest paid circulation they had ever reached was 7,000 . This is subs, newsstand and street-corner sells in the whole Ontario and Montreal area. Very significant..their crimes are catching up with them

I know there was something else that I wanted to take up but I have an appointment to meet a possible good contact and tomorrow I will have to get to work on my speech for the Russian Revolution meeting.

Warmest regards

Ross Cowson

November 18 1947

Dear Reg;

Fullback

We received your last payment forwarded in the November 9th letter alright and our total tallies with your as you have probably noted in the campaign column in the last issue of L.C. On the whole the campaign came off very well....although at this time it appears that we will not probably quite make the objective. Glad to see that all the Vancouver comrades feel confident of ending up with their 300. Toronto will probably go over a little and Windsor as you will note has already gone well over. The majority of the ~~same~~ outside points fell down somewhat and Montreal at this time does not look at all good. However we have not heard the final word from Murray and perhaps we are wrong. At any rate we will come very close and will have done a considerable job for our small forces. We would like to close the campaign books on November 24. I hope you can manage it by then. That will give us time to give the final results in the December issue

A few days ago we received a letter from one of our members at large who has recently moved into the city of Vancouver. Her name is Jean M. Carlson ~~XXX~~. This comrade comes from Lloydminster Alberta and was brought into the party by Vic Bratton whom I believe you or some of the comrades know quite well. Our impression from correspondence with her is that she is an extremely serious woman, quite intelligent, and anxious to work. I have written her informing her that we are transferring her membership to the Vancouver branch for the time that she will be there (until April) and have given her your address. Would you be sure to have one of the comrades drop around to see her in the next week and notify her of the next meeting. Her address is

Jean M. Carlson
33 East 22nd Ave, Vancouver.

She has only been in the party a short while and has had no previous experience working in a branch...so I think it would be best to go around to see her first. This is a good opportunity for us to do a real job on her politically and prepare her for the building of a branch in Streamstown-Lloydminster area when she returns there. This comrade has already donated ten dollars to the financial drive.

Your remarks on the McKensie incident are quite interesting. Byron Johnson has just sent us a letter that reveals even more interesting and specific information. He is in a good spot to get it. He attended a CCF joint D.C. meeting of the Victoria, Esquimalt and Saanich D.C.'s last Sunday November 9 or 2nd. He says; "the apathy in the CCF is reflected in the loss of 3,000 members in the province over the last year. McKensie is resigning to go into law practice. The two provincial organizers are being taken off the pay-roll and the provincial office salaries are

being cut in half. However they have hopes of winning the province in the next elections and their pre-election activity will boost their membership again. However there is some evidence that independent labor candidates will be sponsored by the unions. That will definitely exclude a CCF majority".

Very anxious to know how Tom did on his Maniamo trip. Would you ask him to send in a detailed report...as soon as he can find time .

We have already received a letter from Angus and he appears to be in the groove again already. He addressed a rather lengthy letter to the P.C. which will be meeting I hope this afternoon. In a short paragraph at the close of his letter he reviews the strike situation that is now closing in B.C. He says "I believe that L.C. erred in continually playing up the strikes as battles against the Bill(39) They were struggles essentially for wages and conditions and viewed by the workers as such.... we correctly linked the Bill in the struggle I believe as an obstacle against winning conditions but not once did I hear a worker on the job or on the picket line mention amendments or appeal of the Bill" I believe I wrote to you in my last letter about the line of the articles that Bill Whitney had submitted for the paper(November issue) They too dealt with the situation from a purely wages and hours basis. It seems to me that it would not be correct for us to handle them this way. While it was true that the workers struck for wages and hours, to do so they had to defy the state and its laws. WHundreds were up on charges for defying the reactionary Bill 39. What with the King government preparing once again to push through a dominion anti-labor law and the Taft Hartley situation to the south I think we were correct in placing uppermost the political significance of the strikes and the need to smash Bill 39 which is the first ~~XXXXXX~~ legalistic blow at the T.U. in Canada. I would like to hear the opinions of the rest of the N.C. members for the next P.C. meeting if you can possibly handle it in time.

I had better close off for the P.C. meeting. Will take up again in the next letter which will enclose the minutes.

comradely

Ross

November 20 1947
87 King St. W. Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.

Dear Comrade Bill;

(White)

We were certainly glad to see that you came through with the complete Britannia Beach quota and above all that you were able to get help from so many different people.

The fact that you were able to obtain donations from five other people seems to us to show that you have been able to build some genuine support around Labor Challenge and yourself. Without knowing anything about all the various good points or shortcomings of these persons it seems to point to the fact that you have already built a considerable base there and that we have real opportunities of building a branch in Britannia this coming winter.

I am sure that you can obtain some aid from the Vancouver comrades in this important task. Reg Bullock in his last letter to the center informed us that Tom Bradley is at this very moment taking a trip up Vancouver Island to meet some of our readers, particularly one or two good contacts that we have at Nanaimo.

The situation in your local ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ is much the same as what various comrades across the country report. We are generally in a period of lull. Not so much a condition of apathy and defeatism amongst the workers as one of consideration, confusion, wondering where we are going. I think one of the biggest factors contributing to this feeling is the fact that the wage gains of last year have completely disappeared after they were won in many cases in long drawn out and expensive strikes. Where do we go from here, what is happening and what can we do...these are the questions that the workers are wondering about. The workers are still conscious of their great power...but how to use it, that is the rub. Many have fallen prey to the boss fostered idea that wage increases lead to price increases although this has been countered a bit by the revelations of terrific increases in profits. The red-baiting campaign has ~~XXXXXX~~ also taken its toll.

While obviously this makes it more difficult for us to work none the less it has opened up other opportunities for profitable propaganda work. As you have no doubt noticed from the Militant the sliding scale is finding more support. The ~~XXX~~ workers here recently won a variation of it. The more serious ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and militant workers are developing an interest in political problems, they are no longer satisfied with and understand in many cases the limitations of Simon pure trade unionism. At the street corner meetings which the Toronto branch was able to hold in the last two months we met with considerable interest even in the strongholds of the Stalinists. The Stalinist machine seems to be cracking a bit. We can talk to workers now about the USSR and the Stalin Bureaucracy without meeting an unreasonable and blind rage. Our first forum here had a very good attendance and we are looking forward to this winter's activity with considerable confidence that we will make some real gains.

Very glad that you enjoyed Black Jacobins. I got a real kick out of it myself. We have made contact with two West Indians

here whom I want to loan it to. Both are petty bourgeois but one of them in particular seems to be an intelligent and serious type. He himself is coloured but is a bit contemptuous of the lower strates of the coloured population in Jamaica. This will be a good book to show him the great potentialities of these same workers. I am on the look-out for a copy of this book and if we ever come across one we will send it out to you.

Very glad to send you any book we happen to have so do not hesitate to ask for anymore. It might be a good idea to get after the Vancouver comrades to build up a library. This would be very practical once they get hold of a headquarters which should be any day now.

Warmest regards

Ross Dowson

87 King St. W.
Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.
December 3 1947

(Whitney, Van)
Dear Bill;

We were very glad to receive your letter of November 28th. As Ruth told you in her reply we were taking up the matter of the disagreements that arose around the recent strike struggle at the P.C. meeting. We ~~will~~ have just had the meeting and the P.C. has made some recommendations to the National Committee flowing from the report.

The P.C. noted your request for a statement of its position to you in a letter and your query if my correspondence expressed an official point of view. The P.C. had a lengthy discussion on the whole matter in the light of a statement by Reg and your note. We also examined the article that appeared in the November issue Volume III No. 19 which according to Reg's letter has been estimated by the branch as being ultra leftist. The P.C. is of the opinion that the policy as outlined in L.C. is substantially correct and after reading my correspondence with Reg that this is also substantially correct.

However we are of the opinion that the whole question is bigger than the disagreements that have developed around this strike struggle and Bill 39.... that the disagreements are more fundamental and flow from deeper disagreements on how are party should work in the trade unions its tasks and ~~its~~ its possibilities. You will recall that we had sharp disagreements on the IWA strike of 1946 and there have been other incidents.

In view of this we would like to urge that we take advantage of this opportunity to start a serious discussion in the party internal bulletin on the tasks of our party in the unions particularly on tactics and strategy which seems to be the crux of the matter and that we use this situation that has just developed to illustrate our points. We will also find the discussion on strategy in the IWA strike of considerable value.

In the light of this recommendation we are of the opinion that ~~EMMA~~ it would be preferable that my remarks in correspondence with Reg should not be quoted but perhaps only used as a foil to pose questions and give answers. As you can readily understand my remarks are only ~~part~~ piecemeal not really studied and rounded observations ~~MAXIMUM~~ ~~MAXIMUM~~ It is obviously much better to utilize the article that appears in L.C. and draw the lessons from it

I think a word or so is due to you in explanation of my having taken the matter up with Reg and not yourself. As a matter of fact we had also thought that it might only be a matter of difference of presentation until we received a letter from Angus on the matter. My letter to Reg if I recall correctly was written in the light of a letter and in the form of an enquiry to see if Angus' position was by others.

I realize it would be much more convenient for you if we took time out and expounded our point of view in detail on the whole matter however I do not think it would be as profitable. The paper has handled the affair as it has developed and I think a criticism would be more in order from Vancouver of these articles in the light of an analysis from on the spot. Of course we must admit that in some ~~xxx~~ sense the articles are not the best as due to our dead-line trouble they were written far from the scene of battle. But I think we will be able to do a good educational job on them.

We are holding an editorial board meeting tomorrow to plan the coming issue. Hope to hear from you on what looks like B.C.'s allotment of space in the coming issue.

comradely

Ross Dawson